

Diocese of Dubuque

Personnel File

John A. Schmitz

Zearing, Iowa

June 4, 1979

Dear Archbishop,

I am writing you with
a heavy heart about our
pastor, Father John Schmitz.
He has both ridiculed and
flattered members of St. Gabriel's
and Sacred Heart parishes in
order to modernize us - not
for our spiritual benefits but
rather I feel, to provide him
with matter for boasting. You
and others in authority could

best attest to his success
this. I have till now accep-
ted this as a trial of faith and pray-
ed for a change. This morning
however the final straw fell as
I was taking my children to
summer religious instruction.
Father was working outside the
rectory in cut off blue jeans.
Now I realize priests are human
and I think there is definitely
a time for such attire, but
surely not the first day of
religious instruction with all
the grade school children arriving!

I personally can withstand
the scandal of profanity from
the pulpit, vulgar and irreverent
homilies and the other mention-
ed abuses, but I fear greatly
for the faith of our children.

They have no respect for him,
for the Blessed Sacrament, or
the Commandments.

I do not know what answer
you might find to this problem,
but I respectfully suggest that
maybe the only answer is to
close the parishes. I live

mile and a half from St. Gabriel's
and it is very convenient, but
it is not worth losing my faith
simply for convenience! I feel
Catholics worthy of name would
be willing to drive to another
parish and would not feel guilty
in doing so if the parishes were
closed. In charity, I can think
of no other solution.

Respectfully - as member
of your flock,

Mrs. [REDACTED]

*File
John Schmitz*

June 14, 1979

Mrs. [REDACTED]
Zearing, Iowa 50278

Dear Mrs. [REDACTED],

Archbishop Byrne received your letter concerning your pastor, Father Schmitz.

The Archbishop does appreciate your writing to so advise him. To my knowledge this is the first report of this nature and it is well to make such matters known.

With every best wish, I remain

Sincerely in Christ,

Rev. [REDACTED]
Vice Chancellor

Schmitz-TCC017

March 7, 1981

MEMO TO FR. [REDACTED], P.A.B. MEMBERS, ARCHBISHOP:

Well, you didn't listen when you were asked not to send Fr. John Schmitz to Greene, so what was feared has now happened: we are in the midst of a full-scale scandal. He has installed his whore in the rectory, along with her two small children, and as they go holding hands down Main Street, people say, "there goes the "hole-y family". And they ask us, "How is Fr. Schmitz and his whore today?" Out town is predominantly Protestant, and they are laughing at us.

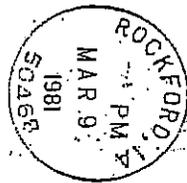
This woman even asked the Country Club for a "family membership" at the Country Club, for herself as well as Father, a membership he got by selling Parish trees to [REDACTED] for a personal Country Club membership for himself.

Townpeople are laughing at our Church. It has become the biggest joke. What a scandal!

If you don't do something, like get him out of here, I hope you are ready to share this scandal. Many people have left the Parish, and many more will follow. The two trustees have resigned. Mr. [REDACTED] has also taken his child out of C.C.D. classes.

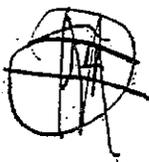
We aren't going to pay for a house for him and his whore, either. You can pay for it yourself. And if you don't get him out of here, we will consider taking this matter to higher authority, for we are FED UP!

You can contact Mrs. [REDACTED], [REDACTED], or Mrs. [REDACTED], [REDACTED] for verification or details. Mrs. [REDACTED] is a member of the Parish Council, and Mrs. [REDACTED] is the D.R.E.



Archbishop [REDACTED]
1105 Locust St.
Dubuque, Iowa 52001

PERSONAL



October 19, 1981

Fr. John Schmitz
105 N. Main
Greene, IA 50636

Dear Mr. Schmitz & Council Members:

Please accept my resignation from the Parish Council. To me, the definition of a Council member is that of being a representative of the whole Parish. One's own personal feelings should be set aside, at times, when decisions affect the future of our Parish. Several solutions to every problem should be discussed and the one most favorable for our Parish on a whole should be obvious. In the past when any opposition was brought up, it was shot down without any discussion, making it hard for anyone to voice the opinion of the people. Constructive criticism is what makes any Council, Board, Senate, etc. work, without this you have nothing, and I cannot be a member of a Council that is run this way.

I am sorry for the way the complaints were aired, I had no idea it was going to be this way, but again they were shot down, leaving no solution to our problem. Maybe this was the only way to get through to us that the Council represents the whole Parish, and not just our own selfish needs.

You cannot say [redacted] acted as spokesman for the whole group, as some of them had no idea what was going to be said, they were there because they are concerned for the future of St. Mary's, and this was just a minority of the people who are concerned. If you are going to continue to list the names of the people attending Council meetings, then please don't slight anyone by leaving their name off the list.

I have no knowledge of a petition of any kind, but if in fact there is one, my name will not be on it. I hope you will use God's guidance in all future decisions and remember you represent the people. I will be praying to God that everything is resolved for the peace and prosperity of St. Mary's.

God Be With You,

[Redacted signature block]

Copy to:
[Redacted recipient list]

We are writing to you in regards to Reverend John A. Schmitz' misconduct. Many of us feel the suggestion of Rev. [REDACTED], Liguori Publications, should be taken into consideration.

"You have to remind the bishop of his responsibility for the Catholic Church in your parish. You have to remind him that if a priest cannot be a good pastor, he must be put somewhere where he will not harm people in a parish, a desk job somewhere in the chancery office. It is not enough to transfer him and make him a burden on a different group of parishioners elsewhere. That does not solve the problem but only shifts it to someone else. You have to remind the bishop that his job demands that he does things that are hard to do, that he cannot always be a "nice guy." The good of the Church is what counts, not what is easy to do for the bishop."

The example Fr. Schmitz is setting for our young people is destroying their respect for the priesthood and the Catholic Church. We have altar boys who want to quit or have quit because of the dirty jokes he tells them before Mass. He has used hypnosis on teenagers. Teenage girls have told of physical advances made by him. CCD children have been withdrawn by parents from our program. The attitude of the children still attending has deteriorated.

Beyond the affect he is having on our youth, the parish as a whole is disintegrating. Members are withholding contributions or leaving the parish. Circle attendance is dropping because Fr. insists on attending the meetings. The ladies will not accept his presence. We are unable to fill offices in the Guild and find volunteers for parish programs. People previously interested in becoming Catholics have changed their minds. Two young boys interested in the priesthood have changed their minds. Eucharistic ministers and one lector, one trustee and one council member have resigned.

These examples of reactions have been precipitated by what Fr. has done.

When Fr. first came here, the whole parish was united and ready to support him. Shortly after he moved in we started having problems. We feel the rectory complex was misrepresented from the beginning. We were never given an option on building. The cost over-run was grossly over the estimate. Because of this the contributions have dropped. Operating expenses for the rectory are prohibitive. The spending on equipment and furnishings is not acted upon by the board. We have no council approved budget. The financial problems are not the major issue here.

Fr.'s apparent obsession with women is a problem we can no longer condone. The entire town is aware of our problem. His actions are flaunted in front of anyone. Such as; hiring a divorced woman with young girls who are now living with him, this was against council approval. The children call him "Dad". They have applied for family membership at our Country Club and swimming pool. They served as a couple at our Jr. High school function. They visit the sick together when he visits. He talks unbecomingly in public.

This and more was brought before Fr. at a council meeting. This meeting was taped by Fr. and we were told this tape was sent to you and a transcript would be sent to all parishioners. Because of this scandal Fr. said the solution was for him to resign and that he would.

We as the parish community feel that Fr. needs help. Because the problem was not dealt with by the council, we feel that this letter is necessary.

[REDACTED]

Feb. 17, 1982

Bishop [REDACTED]
Archdiocesan Center
1229 Mt. Loretta
Dubuque, Iowa 52001

Re: Rev. John Schmitz
& St. Mary's Catholic Church
Greene, Iowa 50636

Your Excellency:

As a member of St. Mary's Church Council, I am writing this from the many complaints I have received from members of our parish community. I find this a most difficult task and one that I have never undertaken before.

As members of the Council, we had a private meeting with Father Schmitz to inform him of some of the problems in the Church and the Community. There was a Council Meeting the next evening with several members present. This regular Council Meeting, I was unable to attend. As he informed the Council Members, the tape of this meeting was sent to the Archbishop for keeping, I do not know what was said and I am just as well pleased that I did not hear it. He did inform us that he choose not to abide by the suggestions made.

Our young people in the parish are losing respect for our faith and are having the Catholic Church ridiculed by other young people. When we lose our young people, I am concerned what is going to happen to our parish years down the road.

I know there are many people in the parish who are afraid to speak up because of the strong hints that are given out that we will not have a resident Priest in Greene if we are not in harmony with the Pastor.

St. Mary's image in the community has degenerated. I feel that I and all of our members should be able to be proud to say that I am a Catholic and belong to St. Mary's. This does not seem to be the case.

Respectfully submitted,

[REDACTED]
St. Mary's Council Member

Most Rev. Father

I'm writing in and with concern for Father Joseph Schmitt. I don't want to accuse, but think some action is called for. My gripe about Father was back two years ago when our daughter was born. I went over to ask about having her baptized, Father asked my name, I told him, not saying another word, got up, looked into a book and said "You haven't given any money to the Church."

Most Rev. Father I am a convert, but don't think giving money to the Church is the first rule for baptism. I give to the Church but don't like using the envelopes.

I'm real sorry for this letter, I'm sorry the need arose, but the Father's attitude is losing our parishioners.

Another concern is with the debt our parishioners are under. In this time a house that's cost come close to \$300,000 is a very dark cloud over our heads. Especially with families going to other towns for Mass.

over

~~And finally~~

And finally maybe more imagination than fact is the way he acts with the supposed house keeper.

I hope this and other letters help do something. Even after this I do like Father and don't wish to see any more than just reprimandations used.

Your sincerely

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Green, Iowa 50636

(3)

Mon. 2-22-82

Dear Archb. [REDACTED]

I am writing in regard to our pastor, Fr. John Schmitz and our parish. I feel, your Excellency, that the time has come to truly cry out for help.

I see our parish, which, only a year or two ago was so hungry to grow spiritually, dying a slow death. People and families are leaving our church.

I know that through difficult times we cry out to God for help. I also know that God works most powerfully during these times to draw us closer to Him.

I feel that because of our praying and seeking discernment God is now touching people to act on their convictions. The result is a united cry for help for

Frs. John and our parish.
I ask God to bless you
most powerfully in seeking discernment
and the truth.
Our continual prayers are with
you.

Sincerely,
Mrs. [REDACTED]
Greene, JO# 50636

St. Mary's Parish

4

February 15, 1982

Dear Archbishop [REDACTED]:

After considerable prayer, thought and concern, I feel I should write you about one aspect of the problems we have here in our Parish.

I am sure that you have been contacted about the situation here as far as the adults are concerned. It is not my intention to go into that in this letter. I am extremely worried about our youth. Because of the gossip, jokes, innuendo, etc., that our children are exposed to, I feel our CCD program is losing ground. I teach 9th grade Catechism and have seen the affect on some of the students. At this time, I have one student in my class of 12 that has dropped out because of our priest and his actions. Another student has stopped attending class also but I was not informed as to the cause. A third student has told me that he would have to respect Father first before Father could teach him about God.

I would like to stress that the decision to write this letter was extremely difficult for me to make. It is something I would have never considered except for the responsibility I feel for the children of this Parish. I sincerely hope I am doing the right thing. If we as adults cannot come to terms with this situation, how can we even begin to explain it to our children? And, if we don't try to find a solution, what kind of example are we?

Respectfully yours,

Mrs. [REDACTED]

Mrs. [REDACTED]
Chairman, St. Mary's Board of Education
[REDACTED]
Greene, Iowa, 50636

(5)

Feb. 18, 1984

Dear Archbishop [REDACTED]

Its 11:30 p.m. I have just returned from a parish council meeting. I also had a chance to talk to [REDACTED] about the meeting with you this afternoon concerning Father Schmitz. I'm very tired but can not sleep until I try to tell you of my feelings.

I am one of the people that signed the letter sent to Bishop [REDACTED]. It was a very hard thing for me to do. Until a few months ago I was a firm supporter of Father Schmitz, even tho I didn't like some of the things that were happening

Feb. 18

I feel betrayed by Father
you and the Church. I am
clinging to my belief in the
Cucharist, its the only thing
keeping me in the Catholic
Church. My faith is being test-
ed. I pray for Gods help.

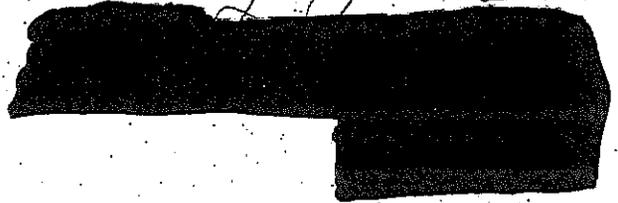
All around me I see people
who are fed up with fathers
lies, his living with a woman
and her children, the damage
he is doing our youth. I feel
our parish is falling apart and
I wonder if it can ever be
put back together.

This letter is not filled
with specifics. You have been



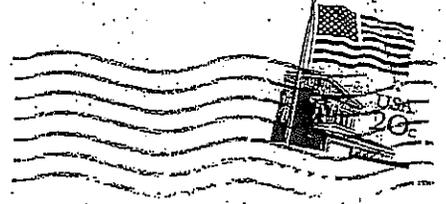
given those by others, tho I
could add some of my own.
I ask you to pray for me
as I am praying for you
May the Lord give us wisdom
and understanding.

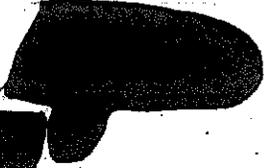
Sincerely Yours





Greene, Iowa
50636



Archbishop 


Dubuque, Iowa
52001

(6)

Feb. 20, 1982

Most Rev. 

As president of St. Mary's Guild of Greene, Iowa, I am writing to you in regards to a situation here in our parish.

I know you have received a letter, which I have read but did not sign. I also know a committee has already been to your office and had a conference with you on this subject, which is - Father John Schmitz.

I have had many persons come to me and ask "What can be done to correct this situation".

And I am asking you now, what can be done to help us very concerned parishioners?

If only half of the

Comments you have read and
heard are true, this parish
is indeed in a serious situation.
I know many of the people in
our community are questioning
us parishoners as to why we
have let this problem continue
on as long as we have.

Please do not abandon
us in our time of deep trouble.

Most Sincerely,

[REDACTED]
Guild President

I am another concerned
parishoner. [REDACTED]

(1)

Greene, Iowa
2-21-82

An open letter to your excellency
Arch-bishop [REDACTED]

I would like to thank you
for granting our delegation from
St. Mary's your time, to listen to
our problems.

As a member of St. Mary's Parish
and a trustee, I tried to enter
into the affairs of our Church
with a renewed outlook when
you replaced Fr. [REDACTED] with our
present pastor, Fr. Schmitz.

After only a few weeks, I had
some doubts, these I had to
struggle with and tried to dismiss
them as jumping to conclusions.

I was called to Fr. Schmitz's office
for a meeting to discuss the
purchase of a new organ. I told
him if the Parish was willing

To pledge enough to purchase it, fine, but instead of waiting for pledges, he assured the then Temporary Council, that it was taken care of. Most of the money, was contributions to the general funds because many of us had with-held our support because of the bad situation with Fr. [REDACTED].

Fr. Schmitz reminded me more than once, that he didn't need my approval, as a trustee. He had the Arch-bishop's and vicar-general's proxy vote on these matters, and that was all he needed. Again, I had to doubt and question very much, but was trying to stay with the general thinking of St. Mary's members.

After several months I felt that I could no longer remain as trustee, I turned in my resignation to Fr. Schmitz.

When confronted with the many questionable actions, Fr. Schmitz assured me that if he was to "grow", he had to do these things.

I can only assume that he is only interested in what is gratifying to him. He is not concerned with the Parish, only himself.

I ask Almighty God's blessings for you in your difficult position.

Very Sincerely



Greene, Iowa

James J. Byrne
Greene, Iowa
⑧ Archbishop of Dubuque:
Your Excellency;

I am writing you as a very concerned
Parishioner of St Mary's, Greene.

Our Catholic Faith I feel is being very
badly scandalized by Our Priest Father Schmitz
and his housekeeper. The example he is
setting by speech, action & dress, when
they act like lovers, or as man & wife by
requesting family tickets at Golf course & swimming
pool & serving at school function as a couple.

My 15 year old Grand-daughter came home from
school, asking to change her religion, because
she is not proud to be a Catholic anymore as being
made fun of, with all the talk about our
priest & housekeeper. She drives his car, also
visits the sick with him plus going nearly everywhere
he goes.

She sun bathed in a skimpy swimming suit between
the rectory & Church facing the street this summer.
She & her children are snippy when answering phone
when you call for him.

She & her family is all he seems to think & talk.
& spends much time with them our kids.
A protestant child told of seeing her lay on back
& he sitting with her head on his lap; also seeing
him with no clothes on & door wide open
to his rooms.

They are near him.

He tells of her female ailments & surgery to many people.

He told a bad sex joke at a curable meeting which I attended, his speech was on the sacraments, & he started it with this horrible story, with about 35 women & 2 other

He is very slack in visiting the sick, a lady just across the street from rectory died without receiving communion which she desired. She had been home two weeks from Hospital from surgery & he never visited her at home. He seems to live on thymall & told me once I set traps for people all the time.

He got upset with his barber which is also his close neighbor so he quit getting his hair cut there & went to Ladies Beauty Shop across the street here in town, which caused very much talk at Christmas time this year they had a very large poster of Santa Claus on front door of rectory facing street. How much better a religious one would have been. I have never heard of advertising Santa Claus on front of Rectory. So we Catholics were criticized once more, he was talked to about it but it wasn't taken down until after Christmas.

Our Parish Council it seems, don't get to make decisions, he & the Trustees make the decisions. Why do we need a Council?

We have a 4 member family plus 2 dogs for 1 persons services, our expenses for food, lights, water, telephone, plus their Ins. is very high at the Rectory.

He was seen embracing & kissing a nun outside near Rectory with all protestant neighbors living close by. He is not conducting himself as the Shepherd of our flock we feel, he needs self discipline & self control, as I think his body is ruling his mind & hers to. We are very confused & some wanting to change religion with all the scandal of our last 2 priests.

I feel very bad about him as
he has so much to offer, has
given some of the best talks & sermons
I have heard. He has a brilliant mind,
very ambitious, a very likable person.
I feel he is a very mixed up &
sick man needing help. Please
don't move him to another
Parish before he gets his
weaknesses & problems solved,
which are women & spending
money, very extravagantly without
consulting anyone. I feel he is
not being honest & truthful with
himself & many others.

I was dismissed from my duty
as housekeeper by being handed
my check & his only remark was
I am getting a live-in. But he
told the Council he dismissed
me because of something confidential
I told from Rectory.
I have been to him three times

--- was I said,
as I have a right to know I feel
twice he looked at floor & wouldn't
talk. I told him I would tell him
whether I said ^{it} or not but last
response was, 'This could be a jealousy
bit,' only answer I ever got on this.

Mrs & Mrs. [redacted] daughter 7 years
old went to confession, he made her sit on his
lap & kissed her on mouth, she was very
frightened of all this. He asked Mrs. [redacted]
to bring her husband in to him & he would
hypnotize him, so they could get him to
join the church, by bringing out his past.
He refused to baptize their son because
their attendance at church was poor.
They have signed several papers trying
to get their marriage fixed up by Fr.
Schmitz + Fr. [redacted] & have not heard
one word on it. Father Schmitz told them
to go to Little Brown Church ^{which they did} & get married.
Her husband wanted to join our church,
but doesn't now & they don't attend or
send children no longer to C.C.D. classes &
are thinking of joining another church in
town. We need help badly on all
these serious matters, as our religion
is getting very ^{for many} weak. (Peace, Love &
God Bless you & Bishop [redacted] Prayers
Mrs. [redacted] Greene, Iowa.

Feb. 21, 1982

Dear Archbishop [redacted]

This letter is in response to your request during our meeting on Feb. 18. I would first like to tell you how grateful I am that you would listen to us and accept the responsibility of taking care of our problems.

The following are incidents that stand out most in my mind:

In the fall, a young girl, about 17, came to me. She told me she had been at the rectory. Fr. Schmitz had pulled her onto his lap and was touching her breasts. This upset her so that she got up and walked out.

My daughter, age 13, has also come to me and said Fr. Schmitz was touching her where he shouldn't. He had hugged her from the side with his hand under her arm and was rubbing her breast. She is now afraid of him and will not go to him for confession.

My mother-in-law has also told me she won't go to him for confession because she doesn't trust him. She was also a member of the Building Committee. She says she quit because

-2-

she had no say and was ignored when she made suggestions. My brother-in-law was also on the committee and says the same.

One of my friends has quit attending Mass and is seriously thinking of changing faiths. This upset on the part of adults is affecting the children I teach in C.C.D.

I don't know what solution you can come up with, I only know it is increasingly difficult for me to attend Mass and feel I have assisted in anything but a farce. I cannot condone anything going on in our parish that I won't allow in my home.

There is one other incident which mortified me. Fr. Schmitz was invited to my home, for a family dinner. While he was there, he sat with his arm around my sister-in-law and flirted with her. Her husband was present, as were her mother, and sister. In all, we had around 20 people witness this display. We were all embarrassed and I didn't know what to do.

his ruined our family gathering and I have never invited him into my home again.

Again, I thank you for your concern and time. We are all praying for a resolution and for you.

Yours in God,

A thick black horizontal bar redacting the signature of the sender.

(10)

Feb-21, 1982

Your Excellency,

This is in reference to John A. Schmitz
pastor of St. Marys of Greene.

Mr. [REDACTED] went in for marriage
counseling & his reply was "get a housekeeper like
live got"

Mrs. [REDACTED] feels & has been told
that she lost the conversion of her new son-
in-law because of the way he acted and
the very personal questions he asked.

Mr. & Mrs. [REDACTED] went into him
10 days prior to their daughters wedding to
make more arrangements when the priest told
them very personal things about his housekeeper's
health and surgery she had. They were very
up set & wanted to leave & yet they felt they
had to stay for fear he would be uncooperative
about the upcoming wedding.

Mr. [REDACTED] a local business man
had this priest come into his place of business &
threaten him with a slander lawsuit. Mr. [REDACTED]
has 2 witness to this. Now this happened
about ⁴⁻⁶~~5-6~~ months after he first came here. Just
about this time he told from the altar he
had taken a lady & her children on a vacation
with him in his motorhome. Nothing became

of the lawsuit but he did do it & he brought shame to our parish by his actions.

Mr & Mrs [REDACTED] experience has been real bad with this priest. Schmitz had 2 member of the parish take their young son (21 yrs.) to a clinic where he had been having treatment for mental problems. Schmitz called the mother & asked where he was receiving treatment and that he was having their son taken immediately. She asked if he would wait a few minutes until she could get there and go with them. (they live in town.) ~~Schmitz~~ Schmitz refused to wait, plus the fact that the young man's father was right downstairs in the church basement doing carpenter's work. The young man had been up in the church belfry & that's what precipitated this action.

Schmitz told a group of 25 parishioners plus the council & 2 trustees that he would resign at a Oct. 15th meeting when he was confronted with getting rid of his housekeeper. He said he'd call you the next day. He also told Mrs [REDACTED] a council member who asked to hear the tapes, because she had to miss the meeting, that they were in Dubuque. He doesn't usually tape meetings, his housekeeper (not elected by the board) takes the minutes, but on the night before the regular

meeting he had been told by a council member that there would be a discussion about his housekeeper & he thought it best if she wasn't there. In the church bulletin that week he told us the transcript was too long to print in bulletin so he would send each of us a transcript of it later. We never received it because from the altar he said you advised against it!

He also told from the altar he was not missing a thing by being a priest. His implication was very clear.

He has also said from the altar he's lost conversions & 2 young men from the priest hood. Here, I won't give names because if he's confronted with this he'll know who they are! I know of 3 conversions personally that he's lost plus 1 lady left the Catholic Church & is now attending a protestant church. The ladies name is Mrs [redacted]

He also told ladies at a meeting that he took money from the cemetery fund. Can he do this? He said if you found out he could get into lots of trouble.

yes, I will give names
 [redacted]
 2, 3

~~found~~ He came to visit me one evening in the hospital. I really felt this could have caused rumors. How would people know he was a priest without his collar + blacks on? I feel he should be dressed as a priest when he leaves the rectory.

He also dropped us from the church mailing list. The housekeeper when phoned and asked why said, "We heard rumors that you joined another parish." I told her we hadn't + I wanted my ^{name} back on it and if + when I did change churches I'd let him know!

We stopped going to mass at Greene + supporting the church there when he made improper advances at our 18-yr old daughter when she went to confession. She went to open confession + felt he was just intimate when he held her hands + pulled his chair up very close + locked her knees between his + then after the Confession hugged her very close. This really scared her and she'd never go back to Confession to him + even stopped being a lecture (which she really enjoyed) because she was afraid to be around him. Besides giving money at Charles City, we give to missions + local community needs.

(Mr. [redacted]) He has gone to Rochester to visit his neighbor. Now this man is not Catholic & I don't mind one bit that he has done this but he doesn't even visit people in his own parish & he'll give you the song & dance song that he can't visit if he doesn't know & that's true but I feel he could go to the hospital & check out the roster list just like the priest from Charles City do. I saw a pink lady up there so I know the priests & Clergy do check it out.

I sincerely feel with all my heart that he has done very much damage to our parish.

I have a very dear friend that just had surgery & she told me & her husband if she died not to get Schmitz. If she couldn't get a priest from Charles City she'd take her chances with God & wanted a protestant minister. This is really sad to hear because she's a born Catholic & has practiced her faith for 45 yrs!!

There are many who feel we should have a local audit of the books. We

never felt we got a true report on [REDACTED]
We really felt there was a cover up & we
need to have a audit so we as a parish
know where we stand.

I & my husband do not feel this
man should be left in the priest hood.
He has misused it & taken advantage of
people & situations. He has gotten away
with this because of his collar.

Please do not send him to another
parish where he can prey on other
ennocent people they may not be as
strong as we.

I am going to church now to pray
the rosary & say some prayers for
you that you may make the right
decision in knowing what to do
with this man.

Thank you Your Excellency,
for taking the time to read this.
Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

(11)

Greene, Iowa 50636
February 22, 1982

The Most Rev. [REDACTED], Archbishop of Dubuque
1229 ME. Loretta Avenue
Dubuque, Iowa 52001

Your Excellency:

I want to thank you for giving us the opportunity to inform you and Bishop [REDACTED] about our problems with Father John A. Schmitz last Thursday, Feb. 18, 1982. You asked us to put our facts and complaints in writing. The following is my attempt to do so.

Many of us felt the building of our rectory and C.C.D. complex was misrepresented from the beginning. Our parish referendum was not on the question of whether or not to build, but rather on how much should be spent on a new rectory and C.C.D. complex. The parishioners interpreted the referendum to mean the new complex would not cost in excess of \$200,000.00, when, in fact, the actual cost was \$315,498.19. Also, in his April 24, 1980, letter to his parishioners, he inferred twice that the cost of the building would not exceed \$200,000.00 and that we had voted if we wanted to build. He told the people the church would employ unemployed parishioners to help with the building. This was not done.

Father Schmitz spent money on the building complex without the approval of the building committee. Four of the five members of the committee have stated this. This committee was just a figurehead. He reports to the council after spending, such as the copy machine. The council allowed him to buy an \$800.00 used machine in July 1980 since the demand for its use wasn't enough to justify a new one. But that following spring he purchases a new machine for \$4,336.04 without the council's knowledge. He also did the same in buying a carousel fireplace, a freedom phone, a vacuum cleaner, and the installation of a \$2,000.00 telephone exchange.

In the Nov. 1980 minutes, "Father announced that [REDACTED] is being considered as a live-in housekeeper and secretary to be paid \$300.00 a month plus room and board. Father did not feel that food and water for 2 children would total \$300.00 and at this rate we would be paying no more for secretary and housekeeper than we are presently for part time help". There was no mention of having an adult child and two dogs living there, too. For a comparison:

Schmitz-TC0051

expenses were:

<u>1980</u>	
Help	\$4,050.85
Household expenses	<u>2,002.33</u>
Total	\$6,053.18

<u>1981</u>	
Help	\$5,447.32
Household expenses	<u>5,447.32</u>
Employees health insurance	<u>2,002.33</u>
Total	\$13,045.66

The custodian informed me that she did not want this health insurance. We were also told the reason for hiring [redacted] was a social justice problem, in that her salary where she was working at the Butler Co. Courthouse was not an adequate wage for her and her family. Mrs. [redacted] called me to inform the council and father that her wages were lower than [redacted] and she and her children were making it.

[redacted]'s prior reputation of having sexual relations with the opposite sex is common knowledge in our community. Father's explanation to this was Jesus had Mary Magdalene. Father told us many times he had your approval, your Excellency, in making these arrangements for his housekeeper.

He is not clear in answering questions concerning annual reports. When confronted on specifics, he doesn't have his books with him. One big question in my mind is since when can he borrow money from the cemetery fund.

He wants a C.C.D. co-ordinator at the salary of \$12,000 annually. The church school board decided that more research had to be done before a decision could be made. But, January 1982, he told the council there was a need for a fulltime nun to work with teachers and adult education. Once again he feels a board can't make decisions.

What does he do with his time? He certainly doesn't obtain speakers for the C.C.D. program, the C.C.D. teachers do this.

Yet, with all this spending he wants to cut the salary of C.C.D. teachers and charge for the use of the hall.

He lacks prudence. He feels he can do no wrong. He portrays a playboy image. He causes talk by intentionally causing gossip by his actions, dress, and language. He and his housekeeper give the impression of a married couple such as walking hand in hand (she wearing short shorts); sitting side by side in the car "close enough to kiss"; applying for family memberships at the country club and swimming pool; attending school functions and dinners as a couple; visiting the sick as a couple; and using his situation as an example of family togetherness from the pulpit!

In the July '81 minutes all parishioners were asked to donate to the auction sale, as a contribution to the church. He and his housekeeper donated items but he later reimbursed himself and his housekeeper in whole or in part for these articles.

He does have many talents of which he continually brags. He even has the talent of telling you, your Excellency, what to do in regard to himself. He told [redacted] to drop professional counseling for her husband because he could handle it better.

He's very good at lying. He informed Mrs. [redacted], a C.C.D. teacher for seventeen years, that she was no longer teaching the First Communion class. This was done before the church school board's decision. She was crushed and heart broken. She requested her family when she died for him not to say her funeral Mass. He would ^{not} relinquish his duties at her funeral. He has unjustly accused Mrs. [redacted], his first housekeeper, of leaking out confidential information. He has often related confidential matters, such as telling me [redacted] hadn't gone to confession for nine years and [redacted] and [redacted] have not followed up on their marital papers. He inferred to the council that [redacted], who is a protestant and one of our local telephone repairmen, would be more than happy to do work for him out of business hours. This would cause [redacted] to lose his job. [redacted] has since contacted his superior about this statement. He has given to a local gas station "Pro" a list of boys, which included [redacted]'s name, from our parish who have been stealing. He didn't even contact the parents of the boys before doing so.

When he was confronted with many of our facts and complaints at the October 1981 meeting; he refused to dismiss his housekeeper but, he, in return, promised to resign and also to send a transcript of this meeting to all parishioners which he has not done. He also said he sent the tapes of the meeting to you, your Excellency.

He does not co-operate in the following ways: 1. His housekeeper has a beautiful voice and makes all the decisions with him in regard to our hymns. Our organists and other hymn leaders feel the music is too difficult. 2. We wanted Midnight Mass but we're told that it was a poorly attended Mass and neither parishes in the area had it. This is not true unless you consider 165 receiving communion, a poorly attended Mass. 3. Our high school youth group wanted to have a festival of old movies in the church hall. He wouldn't allow it because he had movies of his own they could see. 4. We feel unwelcome at the rectory. Posted on the rectory door leading from the church is a "PRIVATE" sign.

His language is foul and suggestive, particularly, around altar boys, non Catholics, and women. He snuggles and kisses women and girls in the confessional. He has used hypnosis on teenagers without parental consent.

His bad example has given him the following nicknames: Black Stallion, Jim Jones, and Papa John.

Our C.C.D. program attendance has dropped because of his actions. Children do not have to attend classes if he teaches. We're having very serious difficulties in finding teachers. I'm team teaching because father was planning to teach the freshmen; no teacher could be found. Then the school board learned seven out of the twelve students would not be attending if he taught the class so the result was team teaching.

Church attendance has dropped. Programs have fallen by the wayside such as the newsletter, scripture class, marriage enrichment, and parish social events. Circle attendance has fallen. He's lost conversions such as [REDACTED] and [REDACTED].

Father is a smart man but he's a conartist. He preys on the weaknesses of his parishioners. He has a certain amount of arrogance + seems to feel that rules that apply to others do not apply to him.

I didn't enjoy writing this letter, but my conscience and my love of my church requires me to right what I feel is a grave wrong.

Sincerely yours,
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Greene, Iowa 50636

(14)
Marble Rock, Iowa
Feb. 24, 1982

Your Excellency,

I do not know where else to turn. I am one of the organists at St. Mary's Church at Greene. We have problems here. The last straw was when either Father or his housekeeper hid the numbers for the songs we sing. We (the organist and song leaders) had been picking our own numbers. Then Father told us that he would pick them from now on. But they started putting in 3 new songs on one day. Sometimes we (organist & song leaders) would change one or more songs, but follow the guide in the back of the Missalette. This is when the numbers disappeared. Father had no idea where the numbers went so that leaves the housekeeper.

I also play for a lot of weddings and funerals. I usually play at most of the funerals and I know who has said to me before their death that they want me to play. One such person died just recently and one of the other organist played. My circle served the dinner so I didn't think too much about it till the other organist told me that Father called her and ask if she would play. She ask why I wasn't doing it. Father told her that I had said something to [redacted] (the housekeeper) that made her mad so He didn't want to give me the chance. I have no idea what I said. Also there has been two weddings that I played at that after the wedding the whole family goes to a different parish. He says something to them that turns them away. Some have even gone to different churches. What can I say when they confide in me. I usually stop them short before they tell me exactly what he said.

I am also concerned about the churches money. He printed a balanced statement. Last Sunday he printed corrections in the bulletin. It showed the statement was over 600 dollars short. He was short on ours to. We didn't turn it in because we just figured it was between God and us what we gave. Now maybe we should have. Where is all that money? He said from the altar one Sun. that we as parisheners should give our tithe. If the person that we entrust our money doesn't use it right it isn't on our conscience it is on his. But that doesn't pay the bills.

A year ago July my husband, who is a carpenter parttime, was looking at the eaves of the church in Greene as Father requested and as he was looking up and walking toward the church he fell in one of the window wells. He was layed up for two months. Father told him that the church had ins. so when he was released from the Dr. to bring him the bills and also a bill for loss of time. My husband, [redacted], did so in a sealed envelope one Sun. morning. This was in Oct. 1980. I had surgery the first part of Dec. when I came back to church I went over to a good friend to say hi and she ask me if we were suing the church. Someone had started the rumor around Greene. We know who started it. Only the ins. agent, my Husband and I, our lawyer, and Father knew it. The reason our lawyer knew it the ins. agent sent him the form. It still is not settled. When Father sent it to the ins. he didn't send the loss of time in. I sure hope this will be settled soon. So to stop the rumor we went to father on the advice of our lawyer to get him to print a retraction in the bulletin and the local paper. We had to bring him back to the subject 7 times. Some of the things he told us in that meeting (gossip) I wouldn't repeat. But we found out who starts most of the stories about him. Also when I was in the hospital for surgery He didn't come to see me. He told me he didn't know I was there. He had to of because several people had Masses said for me. I was home for a week and went back for 5 days. He still didn't come. I know he was in the hospital because there was other people from Greene there. I went back for more surgery in Jan. and he finally stuck his head in the room.

Schmitz-TC0055

I know he is busy but when he is right in the hospital he could at least come and say a prayer. When I mentioned this to some other people they said the same.

This is only a few of the things that have gone on especially with the music people at church. The main thing is I guess I am trying to say is that I don't like the way he treats most people here in Greene and all the lies he tells. I heard him at a funeral dinner tell some of the people that he was going to take over Allison parish. Then he gets up last Sunday and ask if any one knew how it got started.

It is sad when I go out of town I feel that I tell people I am from Marble Rock so they will associate me with Roseville instead of Greene. Up till now I would say Marble Rock and Greene Church.

If there are any Questions please feel free to call me or write me. Thank you for listening.

Sincerley,

Mr. and Mrs. [REDACTED]

Marble Rock, Iowa 50653

Mrs. [REDACTED]

* [REDACTED] wasn't released from the Dr. Till cell in 1981.

(1)

- received many complaints from members of the Parish
- ^{the} tape of a Council meeting was sent to the Archbishop for keeping, (Father Schmitz said)
- our young people are losing respect for our faith
- ^{young people say} the Catholic Church is ridiculed by other young people
- "the strong hints that are given out that we will not have a resident Priest in Greene if we are not in harmony with ~~our~~ the Pastor"

- person come to arrange for a
Baptism a baby was born.

"Father asked my name. I told
him, not saying another word,
got up, looked into a book
and said "You haven't given
any money to the Church".

- the Father's attitude is
"losing our parishioners"

- spending close to \$300,000.⁰⁰
for a ~~new~~ house

- "the way he acts with
the supposed house keeper"

- "The time has come to truly
cry out for help"

- "... our parish, which only a
year or two ago was so
hungry to grow spiritually,
dying a slow death. People
and families are ~~leaving~~
leaving our church".

— I am extremely worried about our youth. Because of the gossip, jokes, innuendo etc. that our children are exposed to, I feel our CCD program is losing ground

— "one student... dropped out because of our priest and his actions"

— ~~Student has stopped attending~~

— a student has said:
"that he would have to respect Father first before Father could teach him about God"

— "Until a few months ago I was a firm supporter of Father Schmitz, even though I didn't like some of the things that were happening. I feel betrayed by Father, you and the Church."

— "all around me I see people who are fed up with Father's lies, his living with a woman and her children, the damage he is doing our youth. I feel our parish is falling apart."

- "Many persons come to me and ask "What can be done to correct this situation" (11)

- "Many of the people in our community are questioning us parishoners (sic) as to why we have let this problem continue on as long as we have."

(7)

- Father went ahead and purchased an organ without consulting the parish
- "When confronted with many questionable actions, Fr Schmitz assured me that if he was to "grow" he had to do these things."

(8)

- "Our Catholic Faith I feel is being very badly scandalized by Our Priest Father Schmitz and his housekeeper."
- "The example he is setting by speech, action & dress, when they act like lovers, or as man and wife by requesting family tickets at Golf course & swimming pool & serving at school functions as a couple."
- a girl wants to change her religion "... because she is not proud to be a Catholic anymore as (sic) is being made fun of, with all the talk about our priest & housekeeper."
- (housekeeper) "she drives (his (Father's)) car, also visits the sick with him plus going nearly everywhere he goes"

— "She (housekeeper) sun bathed in a skimpy swimming suit between the rectory & Church facing the street this summer"

— "She (housekeeper) are snappy when answering phone when you call for him (Father)"

— "She (housekeeper) & her family is all he (Father) seems to think & talk & spends much time with. He calls them our kids"

— A protestant (sic) child told of seeing her ^(housekeeper) lay onavenport and he (Father) ~~was~~ sitting with her head on his lap... also seeing him with no clothes on & door wide open to his room.

— Women feel that he (Father) undresses them with his eyes when they are near him.

- He (Father) tells of her (housekeeper) female ailments & surgery to many people
- He told a bad sex joke at a Curial meeting... there were about 35 women present
- He (Father) is very slack on visiting the sick. A lady, home from the hospital two weeks, died without receiving Holy Communion
- He seems to live on hermit
- He said that he "sets traps for people all the time"
- He went to a Ladies Beauty Shop to get a hair cut. This caused very much talk
- Parish Council "don't get to make decisions... he (Father) and the trustees make the decisions"
- "We have a 4 member family (housekeeper + 3 children) plus 2 dogs for 1 person's services (Fr). Our expenses for food, lights, water, telephone, plus their insurance is very high directory"

- He [Fr] was seen embracing and kissing a nun outside & near the rectory. Protestant neighbors live close by.
- His [Fr] problems are women and spending money very extravagantly without consulting anyone.
- "A 7yr old girl" ... went to confession, he made her sit on his lap & he kissed her on the mouth. She was very frightened & all this"
- He [Fr] asked a Catholic lady to bring her husband into him & he would hypnotize him, so they could get him to join the church, by bringing out his past"
- Fr. told a couple "to go to the Little Brown Church & get married... which they did". This couple is now "thinking of joining another church in town"

- (1)
- "a young girl, about 17, ... told me she had been to the rectory. Fr Schmitz had pulled her onto his lap and was touching her breasts. This upset her so that she got up and walked out."
 - a girl, age 13, said that Fr Schmitz "was touching her where he shouldn't. He hugged her from the side. ... was rubbing her breast" she will no longer go to confession to him.
 - building committee has no
 - increasingly difficult to attend Mass at Greene
 - at a family dinner Fr "sat with his arm around ... (a woman) + flirted with her. all people present were embarrassed

— a man went to Fr for marriage counselling and he was told: "Get a housekeeper like I've got"

— Fr told a couple "very personal things about his housekeeper's health and surgery..."

— from the altar "he [Fr] told... he had taken a lady and her children on a vacation with him in his motor home"

— Fr ~~took~~ ^{had 2 men of the parish take} a man 2 yrs to a clinic for treatment without consulting the father, who was working in the basement of the church and without waiting for the mother to arrive from the home

— He [Fr] told from the altar [sic] he was not missing ~~anything~~ a thing by being a priest. His implication was clear"

- (10.2)
- writer knows one lady who has left Catholic Church and is now attending a protestant church
 - Fr told ladies at a meeting that he took money from the cemetery fund
 - improper advances to an 18 yr old daughter "when she went to confession. She went to open confession and felt he was just too intimate when he held her hands & pulled her chair up very close & locked her knees between his & then after the confession hugged her very close. This really scared her and she'd never go back to confession to him ..."
 - Fr doesn't visit sick people of his parish when they are in the hospital

- Fr. had the people thinking that the rectory would cost less than \$200,000. Actually, it cost \$315,489.19
- Fr. was authorized to spend \$800 for a used copy machine. He bought a new one for \$4,336.04
- Fr. bought a carousel fireplace, a freedom phone, a vacuum cleaner + installed a \$2000 telephone exchange without approval of building committee
- household expenses + help:
 - 1980 - 6,553.18
 - 1981 - 13,045.66
- household expenses only:
 - 1980 - 2,002.33
 - 1981 - 5,447.32
- ~~housekeeper~~ housekeeper + 3 children + 2 dogs should parish pay for all these
- reputation of housekeeper was bad before Fr. hired her

— "He [Fr] lacks prudence. He feels he can do no wrong. He portrays a playboy image. He causes talk by intentionally causing gossip by his actions, dress and language. He and his housekeeper give the impression of a married couple such as walking hand in hand (she wearing short shorts); sitting side by side in the car "close enough to kiss"; applying for family memberships at the Country Club and swimming pool; attending school functions and dinners as a couple; visiting the sick as a couple; using his situation as an example of family togetherness from the pulpit."

— "In the July 1981 minutes all parishioners were asked to donate to the auction sale, as a contribution to the Church. He and his housekeeper donated items but he later reimbursed himself and his housekeeper in whole and in part for these items."

(u)

- He's [Fr.] very good at lying... He has often related confidential matters, such... ~~that~~ telling me ... hadn't gone to confession for nine years.

- Fr. gave a local business man a list of boys who have been stealing. He didn't tell the parents of these boys.

- The housekeeper + Fr. make all decisions re Church music whereas parish organists and hymn leaders have nothing to say.

church attendance has dropped.

- His [Fr.] language is foul and suggestive, particularly around altar boys, non Catholics and women. He smuggles and kisses women and girls in the confessional. He has used hypnosis on teenagers without parental consent.

- CCD program is in difficulty re: attendance. If he teaches "Children do not have to attend..."

- (100)
- our children will not be around Fr Schmitz. They will not be altar boys. They mess @D when he is the instructor
 - our family is not going to let Fr hurt us anymore
 - Fr has told off-color jokes to altar boys before Mass
 - Fr took a list of boys to a Greene business establishment and said these boys were stealing from the store. The accusation is untrue.
 - Fr made sexual advances to a woman & had a sexual relationship with her.
 - Fr told lies about new buildings e.g. who would pay for the fireplace (it was included in the final bill)
 - Fr did not follow decisions made by building committee and did not consult the committee re: changes.

— Is used Cemetery funds to purchase
a Video ~~of~~ tape machine

(127)

— Fr "started with huggies, then
kisses, sitting on his lap,
fondling me, wanting a
passionate intimate relationship"

— confession to Fr. of acts of
impurity with him... he
gave absolution and
a penance

Witness of accomplice

— sexual advances + intercourse
by Fr Schmitz to this woman
Here

— Confession by lady to Fr Schmitz
in Confessional

— absolution

— penance imposed

— 7yr old girl

"he made her sit on his lap
and he kissed her on the mouth"

— 18yr old girl (face to face)

"^{he} held her hands & pulled her
chair up very close and locked
her knees between his & then
after confession hugged her
very close"

— 17 yr old girl (in rectory)

"Fr Schmitz pulled her onto his lap and was touching her breasts. This upset her so that she got up & walked out"

— 13 yr old girl

Fr " was touching her where he shouldn't. He hugged her from the side... was rubbing her breast" (she will no longer go to confession to him)

— (actions with housekeeper)
⑧(a-d.)

February 10, 1982

Mrs. [REDACTED]

Greene, Iowa

Dear Mrs. [REDACTED]

Bishop [REDACTED] has given me the information that you provided him verbally and in letter form.

Bishop [REDACTED] informed me that you would be willing to come to see me in the Chancery with a small delegation from Greene. I would suggest there would be no more than five people, altogether four with yourself. I would be happy to see you at 2:00 P.M. on Thursday, February 18, or 2:00 P.M. on Friday, February 19. If 2:00 P.M. is too early, we could set it back some. If you would rather come at 1:30 P.M., I can arrange that. Perhaps you might write a note or call by telephone to inform me which of these two days would be better for you and your delegation. Address: Most Rev. [REDACTED], [REDACTED] Dubuque, Iowa 52001. Telephone: [REDACTED]; between the hours of 9:00 and 12:00 Noon, 1:30 and 4:00 P.M.

Asking God's abundant blessings on you always, may I close with my blessing: "Benedictio..." etc.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Rev. [REDACTED]
Archbishop of Dubuque

Schmitz-TC0080

C
O
P
Y

2 PM, March 9, 1982

Mrs. [REDACTED] Greene, called. She is a present member of the Parish Council there. She stated she thinks that the parish has a right to know what is happening. The situation is becoming much worse and it is absolutely essential to the well being of the parish that they get some kind of information from Dubuque, some facts.

Stories are running around like crazy, partly from what Father said (he said he has cancer and is leaving and that he can no longer act as a priest in the diocese).

A reporter from the Des Moines Register is investigating. Mrs. [REDACTED] talked to him and she asked him how he found out about this. The reporter [REDACTED] told her someone called the office and said there was something going on up in Greene with the priest. The reporter talked to Father and he told the reporter he was on sick leave.

The Parish Council Chairman has called a council meeting for tomorrow (Wed. night at 7:30). His name is [REDACTED]. The trustees do not know any more than she does what is going on. But they would like to know for sure if Father has been removed from being a priest in this diocese.

She also told the reporter that they had no information from Dubuque except that a petition had been sent to the Archbishop.

Mrs. [REDACTED] said she can't emphasize enough how they need information here, anything at all.
Phone [REDACTED]

Schmitz-TC0081

July 2, 1982

Rev. John A. Schmitz
1802 Franklin Street
Waterloo, IA 50703

Dear Father Schmitz,

In the absence of Archbishop [REDACTED] from the office, I
am enclosing your check for the month of June.

Sincerely yours,

(Mrs.) [REDACTED]
Secretary

Schmitz-TC0082

5-5-85

All for Jesus thru Mary!

The Rt Rev. [REDACTED]

Dubuque, Iowa 52001

Subject: Father John Schmitz

Your Excellency:

It is with sadness and great regret that I learned today of Father John's departure from our Diocese where he has been available to us as associate pastor of Holy Rosary Cathedral for the past two years. It was our very good fortune.

I wish to be numbered among those who with gratitude praise him for his untiring efforts, interests, hard, and continued labors for us of every age while he was here. Our loss is your gain.

I pray you will extend him your generous support and every kindly Christian consideration. Thanking you I remain:

Very respectfully yours,

Mrs. [REDACTED]

San Bernardino, Ca

Schmitz-TC0083

2:50 Fr. John Schmitz in
child molestation case, with a 4-year old
female, because of a lack of proof, San Bernardino
the case has been dropped.

[REDACTED] Chancellor
6/14/1985

Father [REDACTED], Vicar General & Chancellor
of the San Bernardino Diocese telephoned to inform
us officially that the case has been dropped.

P.S. You will be covered
by our Blue Cross -
Blue Shield of
Ill. For [REDACTED]
I will send you
forward the sign

St. Joseph's Church
 320 Mulberry Street
 Telephone 234-4439
 Waterloo, Iowa 50703

for Fr. Schmitz

EXPENSES FOR PROPERTY AT 125 MULBERRY ST., WATERLOO, IOWA, FOR ONE YEAR PERIOD:

Utilities: Electric 7-7-87/7-7-88 \$416.68
 Gas Same Period 599.84
 Water 6-16-87/6-9-88 144.16

TOTAL UTILITIES \$1,160.68

(Note: Telephone not paid by Parish)

Property taxes one year
 Insurance (Self-Insurance Program) one year
 Estimated maintenance one year
 Meals at Rectory (313 @ \$3.00)

PROPERTY TAXES 1,080.00
 INSURANCE 234.00
 MAINTENANCE 1,386.32
 MEALS 939.00

TOTAL \$4,800.00

Telephone (\$50 per month)

600.00
\$ 5,400.00

Above information has been studied
 and this report approved by
 Father Thomas F. McAndrew, Pastor

August 15, 1988

*Rent for Father John Schmitz
 at house owned by St. Joseph's Parish*

Pay monthly to the parish: \$ 450

Approved



8-18-88

Retroactive to July 1, 1988.

St. Joseph's Church
320 Mulberry Street
Telephone 294-4489
Waterloo, Iowa 50703

EXPENSES FOR PROPERTY AT 125 MULBERRY ST., WATERLOO, IOWA, FOR ONE YEAR PERIOD:

Utilities: Electric 7-7-87/7-7-88	\$416.68
Gas Same Period	599.84
Water 6-16-87/6-9-88	<u>144.16</u>

TOTAL UTILITIES \$1,160.68

(Note: Telephone not paid by Parish)

Property taxes one year

PROPERTY TAXES 1,080.00

Insurance (Self-Insurance Program) one year

INSURANCE 234.00

Estimated maintenance one year

MAINTENANCE 1,386.32

Meals at Rectory (313 @ \$3.00)

MEALS 939.00

TOTAL \$4,800.00

Above information has been studied
and this report approved by
Father Thomas F. McAndrew, Pastor

August 15, 1988

12-27-88 Experts: Pedophiles need constant monitoring

By Randy Rodgers
of the Telegraph Herald

Area experts in the field of sexual addictions say an adult who molests children should not be sent to prison without receiving carefully monitored treatment for a psychological disorder called pedophilia.

The experts were interviewed in the wake of the arrest of a Wahlert High School staff member charged with the sexual abuse of students at the school.

The Rev. John Schmitz, a Catholic priest in Waterloo who specializes in counseling sexual addicts, said most pedophiles (people with a sexual attraction to children) are non-violent and abuse themselves just as they do their victims.

"People look at pedophiles as scum," said Schmitz, "but most of them were abused themselves as children. They're really victims, too."

Schmitz said the phenomenon of pedophilia is psychologically similar to alcoholism, and once patients admit they have a problem, nearly three-fourths of them can be successfully treated.

But Brenna Healy, a psychologist at the Dubuque/Jackson Mental Health Center in Dubuque, said she believes few pedophiles stay in treatment programs long enough to maintain control of their disorder. She said the criminal justice system should be responsible for ordering and monitoring such treatment.

"Pedophilia is like alcoholism," she said, "in that there is no cure. It's an ongoing condition that must be managed and monitored. The desire itself is in-

curable."
Healy said pedophilia is "very resistant to treatment."

Schmitz and Healy agreed, however, that group therapy in specially-designed programs is the most effective form of treatment.

"We don't know what really motivates them. We only know they have a driving need to mediate, or satisfy, their own problems by acting out (pedophilia)," Schmitz said. "But, why they do it at a given time, in a given place, I don't think anybody knows." Pedophiles generally have high IQs and low self-esteem, Schmitz said. The disorder starts as a fantasy, and later, when the opportunity arises, develops into reality. Ironically, pedophiles tend to abuse children who are about the same age they had been when they were victims of abuse, Schmitz said.

Pedophilia surfaces in all social classes and occupations, the experts agree, but Schmitz said those who are teachers tend to be discovered more often because they victimize more children for shorter periods of time.

"There are more chances to get caught," he said. "And most pedophiles follow a ritual, so all the police have to do is watch them for a while — they'll repeat themselves."

Healy said most pedophiles are men who seek the feelings of intimacy, competency and adequacy they can only achieve through the psychological or physical control of the less-powerful child. She said it is a myth that pedophiles are homosexuals — in fact, many are married and have sex with their wives in

addition to the children they abuse. They usually gain access to their victims through deception or enticement, although some use threats and physical force, Healy said.

"In most cases the child likes the perpetrator and wants to please him," Healy said. "They feel trapped because they're told it's their fault, and they're afraid people will either not believe them or will judge them."

"Our society tends to perpetuate the victimization by blaming the person who is being abused," she said. "By doing so, it's easier to feel like it won't happen to us. But, in reality, we can all potentially be victimized."

Dubuque County Attorney Fred McCaw said preventing sexual abuse of children is made extra difficult by a legal system that treats pedophiles as "sane people" rather than criminals.

"We're not in the business of treating people with mental problems," he said. "We're in the business of protecting the community."

"The law makes it very difficult to confine the people. Often they are confined (in a mental institution) for a short time and then the doctors say there's nothing more they can do, so they turn them loose," McCaw said. "The next thing you know, they're back in the community doing the same kinds of things because a ridiculous cycle of not being able to do anything about these offenses."

McCaw said the maximum jail term for someone convicted of third-degree sexual assault is 10 years, however, the average offender spends only months in prison before being paroled.



archdiocese dubuque

Office of the Archbishop

1229 Mt. Loretta • P.O. Box 479 • Dubuque, Iowa 52004-0479 • Phone (319) 556-2580

MEMO

TO: [REDACTED]
FROM: Archbishop [REDACTED]
DATE: April 5, 1989

Please make a check out for [REDACTED] to John A. Schmitz and give to me to include with a letter. It would be debited in the same way that the monthly check he gets from us is posted.

Archbishop [REDACTED]

LAW OFFICES OF
Gottschalk & Shinkle
AN ASSOCIATION OF SOLE PRACTITIONERS

Don E. Gottschalk
Paul T. Shinkle

704 Main Street
P.O. Box 523
CEDAR FALLS, IOWA 50613-0523
Telephone (319) 277-5500

February 26, 1990

Bishop [REDACTED]
Catholic Bishop-Waterloo Region
320 Mulberry Street
Waterloo, Iowa 50703

Dear Bishop [REDACTED]:

I am an attorney representing [REDACTED] in a Dissolution Divorce Action here in Black Hawk County. I am also representing him in a law suit that is to be filed regarding the interloper in his marriage relationship.

In October Mr. [REDACTED] began to see Father John Schmitz. In June, 1988, his wife also began to counsel with Father Schmitz. Shortly after that Mr. [REDACTED] began to suspect that Father Schmitz was the interloper in his marriage relationship. In February of 1989, Mr. [REDACTED] taped a telephone conversation between them which tends to confirm the suspicion. However, Mr. [REDACTED] still found it hard to believe that the interloper in his relationship was a Catholic Priest. This began to disturb him. Among the telephone conversations between his wife and Father Schmitz, one took place in April, in 1989, where they planned their discussions, and discussed Mrs. [REDACTED] weighing the Priest in the nude, and similar matters.

We believe, given the fact that Rev. Schmitz also attempted marriage counseling while discussing these other matters with Mrs. [REDACTED], that this was a grave breach of his duties both as a marriage counselor and as a priest in your diocese. While we are preparing a law suit this is not the primary reason I am writing to you, Mr. [REDACTED] lost over \$[REDACTED] in assets in the dissolution. He lost, of course, the life he had with his wife, and finally, lost the time that he was hospitalized for the problems that have caused it.

The primary reason I am writing to you is Mr. [REDACTED] would like to give you an opportunity to listen to these tapes and to determine for yourself whether or not any action should be taken on this matter. We would therefore appreciate, if it would be possible, an audience with you. We would like to do this without Rev. Schmitz present.

Please contact me in regards to this matter at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely yours,
[REDACTED]

LAW OFFICES OF
Gottschalk & Shinkle
AN ASSOCIATION OF SOLE PRACTITIONERS

Don E. Gottschalk
Paul T. Shinkle

704 Main Street
P.O. Box 523
CEDAR FALLS, IOWA 50613-0523
Telephone (319) 277-5500

February 26, 1990

Bishop [REDACTED]
Catholic Bishop-Waterloo Region
320 Mulberry Street
Waterloo, Iowa 50703

Dear Bishop [REDACTED]:

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We believe, given the fact that Rev. Schmitz also attempted marriage counseling while discussing these other matters with Mrs. [REDACTED], that this was a grave breach of his duties both as a marriage counselor and as a priest in your diocese. While we are preparing a law suit this is not the primary reason I am writing to you, Mr. [REDACTED] lost over \$ [REDACTED] in assets in the dissolution. He lost, of course, the life he had with his wife, and finally, lost the time that he was hospitalized for the problems that have caused it.

The primary reason I am writing to you is Mr. [REDACTED] would like to give you an opportunity to listen to these tapes and to determine for yourself whether or not any action should be taken on this matter. We would therefore appreciate, if it would be possible, an audience with you. We would like to do this without Rev. Schmitz present.

Please contact me in regards to this matter at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely yours,
[REDACTED]

Schmitz-TC0091

March 2, 1990

Mr. [REDACTED]

704 Main Street
P.O. Box 523
Cedar Falls, Iowa 50613-0523

Dear Mr. [REDACTED]:

I am responding to your letter of February 26, 1990, regarding Father John Schmitz.

Father John Schmitz has not been on active duty in the Archdiocese of Dubuque for many years and does not enjoy the faculties of the Archdiocese to perform priestly functions. He has no official appointment in the Archdiocese of Dubuque.

His activities are his personal responsibility and are not sanctioned ^{by} or derived from any official appointment. Father Schmitz is aware of his status and its limitations.

Sincerely yours,

[REDACTED]
(Most Rev.) [REDACTED]
Bishop for the Waterloo Region
Archdiocese of Dubuque

March 2, 1990

COPY

Mr. [REDACTED]
704 Main Street
P.O. Box 523
Cedar Falls, Iowa 50613-0523

Dear Mr. [REDACTED]:

I am responding to your letter of February 26, 1990,
regarding Father John Schmitz.

Father John Schmitz has not been on active duty in the
Archdiocese of Dubuque for many years and does not enjoy the
faculties of the Archdiocese to perform priestly functions.
He has no official appointment in the Archdiocese of Dubuque.

His activities are his personal responsibility and are
not sanctioned ^{by} or derived from any official appointment.
Father Schmitz is aware of his status and its limitations.

Sincerely yours,

[REDACTED]
(Most Rev.) [REDACTED]
Bishop for the Waterloo Region
Archdiocese of Dubuque

Schmitz-TC0093

LAW OFFICES OF
Gottschalk & Shinkle
AN ASSOCIATION OF SOLE PRACTITIONERS

APR 18 1990

Don E. Gottschalk
Paul T. Shinkle

704 Main Street
P.O. Box 523
CEDAR FALLS, IOWA 50613-0523
Telephone (319) 277-5500

April 18, 1990

Bishop [REDACTED]
Catholic Bishop-Waterloo Region
320 Mulberry Street
Waterloo, Iowa 50703

ArchBishop [REDACTED]
Archdiocese of Dubuque
Post Office
Dubuque, Iowa 52001

Dear Bishop [REDACTED] and Archbishop [REDACTED]:

First, I have enclosed with this letter, both my earlier letter to Bishop [REDACTED], and his March 2nd response. I think you fail to understand our position, which is, we want some action taken against Father Schmitz, and we believe since Father Schmitz was residing on church property, even by Bishop [REDACTED]'s letter, and was referred to as a Priest and as Father, that there was no notice given to anyone that would approach him, either through his parish or any parish of the Archdiocese, that he was not a functioning priest in your Archdiocese leads me to believe that legally your in the same position as what he was. If a person hold himself out to be a Priest, is a Priest, is residing on diocese property, then the individual is a Priest within the diocese, and we believe that you are the proper people to contact regarding him. However, if there is someone else we should make direct contact to outside of this diocese, we are willing to do that and would appreciate that person's name. I would appreciate a response to this letter by April 30, 1990.

Sincerely yours,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Enclosures

Schmitz-TC0094

LAW OFFICES OF
Gottschalk & Shinkle
AN ASSOCIATION OF SOLE PRACTITIONERS

Don E. Gottschalk
Paul T. Shinkle

704 Main Street
P.O. Box 523
CEDAR FALLS, IOWA 50613-0523
Telephone (319) 277-5500

April 18, 1990

Archbishop [REDACTED]
Archdiocese of Dubuque
Post Office
Dubuque, Iowa 52001

Bishop [REDACTED]
Catholic Bishop-Waterloo Region
320 Mulberry Street
Waterloo, Iowa 50703

Dear Archbishop [REDACTED] and Bishop [REDACTED]:

First, I have enclosed with this letter, both my earlier letter to Bishop [REDACTED], and his March 2nd response. I think you fail to understand our position, which is, we want some action taken against Father Schmitz, and we believe since Father Schmitz was residing on church property, even by Bishop [REDACTED]'s letter, and was referred to as a Priest and as Father, that there was no notice given to anyone that would approach him, either through his parish or any parish of the Archdiocese, that he was not a functioning priest in your Archdiocese leads me to believe that legally your in the same position as what he was. If a person hold himself out to be a Priest, is a Priest, is residing on diocese property, then the individual is a Priest within the diocese, and we believe that you are the proper people to contact regarding him. However, if there is someone else we should make direct contact to outside of this diocese, we are willing to do that and would appreciate that person's name. I would appreciate a response to this letter by April 30, 1990.

Sincerely yours,
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Enclosures

Schmitz-TC0095

LAW OFFICES OF
Gottschalk & Shinkle
AN ASSOCIATION OF SOLE PRACTITIONERS

Jon E. Gottschalk
Paul T. Shinkle

704 Main Street
P.O. Box 523
CEDAR FALLS, IOWA 50613-0523
Telephone (319) 277-5500

June 15, 1990

Mr. [REDACTED]
O'Connor & Thomas, P.C.
200 CyCare Plaza
Dubuque, Iowa 52001-6874

Dear Mr. [REDACTED]:

You have not responded to my earlier inquiry particularly as to the question, if Father Schmitz was not your Priest and had not been for many years and was not assigned to the Parish, in what manner was he, and whose Priest was he. He was residing in a building owned by one of your Parish's, he was permitted to refer to himself as a Priest, and was given, by the Parish, and therefore I believe the Archdiocese, the draping as a Priest. I would appreciate it therefore, if you would inform me as to, if he is not the Archdiocese Priest, whose he is. We intend to sue both he and the Archdiocese by July 3rd unless we receive an answer, enclosed is a copy of our proposed Petition.

Sincerely yours,
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Enclosure

wife of them ridiculed Mr. [REDACTED], induced sexual innuendos with [REDACTED], and falsely represented himself as attempting to help Mr. [REDACTED] in his marital difficulties.

6. That the Defendant, John Schmitz, committed marital interference with the marital contract, and or mal-practice in attempting to professionally counsel while also attempting to have a personal relationship with one of the individuals he was counseling in marital matters, which was contrary to the goal of the counseling.

7. That [REDACTED] and the Plaintiff are no longer husband and wife, having had their marriage dissolved in a Court of Law.

8. That the Plaintiff was damaged in the following particulars: emotional distress, medical bills, loss of property, and deterioration in eventual termination of his marital relationship.

WHEREFORE, the Plaintiff prays that judgment be entered against the Defendant John Schmitz a/k/a Father John Schmitz, in a fair and reasonable amount for the Plaintiff's loss and for the cost of this action.

DIVISION II

COMES NOW the Plaintiff [REDACTED], and for cause of action against the Defendants St. Joseph's Parish and The Archdiocese of Dubuque, states:

1. That Father Schmitz was a Priest residing at a building owned by St. Joseph's Parish and allowed to hold himself out as a Priest.

2. That the Archdiocese of Dubuque was aware of past difficulties of Father Schmitz, but failed to adequately warn the

public thereof allowing Father Schmitz to continue to hold himself out as a Catholic Priest and reside in one of their Parish's and to continue to counsel individuals when the Archdiocese knew, and had a reason to know that such counseling should not have been permitted.

WHEREFORE, the Plaintiff prays that judgment be entered against the Defendants, St. Joseph's Parish and The Archdiocese of Dubuque, in a fair and reasonable amount and for the cost of this action.


704 Main Street
P. O. Box 523
Cedar Falls, Iowa 50613-0523
Phone: (319) 277-5500

Man claims character defamation in suit against Catholic priest

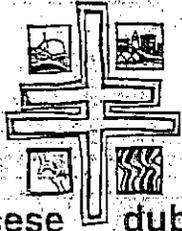
A Waterloo man has filed suit against a Catholic priest, contending he suffered emotional and psychological stress as a result of counseling sessions between the two.

Arnold Leo Delapardelle states in his suit that the Rev. John Schmitz, who is on a leave of absence from the Archdiocese of Baltimore, violated his position as a counselor.

Schmitz of Waterloo, said Thursday he has not seen a copy of the suit and did not want to comment. He said he is not affiliated with any church in the area now.

The suit states that in 1988 and 1989, Schmitz attempted to counsel Delapardelle and Delapardelle's former wife.

The suit states that Schmitz used the information obtained from the counseling session to disclose Delapardelle to his former spouse, resulting in the couple's eventual divorce.



archdiocese dubuque

Office of the Archbishop

1229 Mt. Loretta • P.O. Box 479 • Dubuque, Iowa 52004-0479 • Phone (319) 556-2580

MEMO

TO: [REDACTED]
FROM: Archbishop [REDACTED]
RE: Father John Schmitz
DATE: November 29, 1990

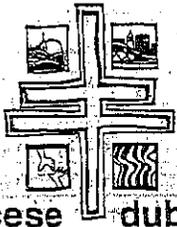
Father John Schmitz is in some sort of litigation in Waterloo. As you know, he is not a priest in good standing in the Archdiocese of Dubuque, and consequently we do not take responsibility for his actions.

On the other hand, we have been supporting him out of charity. I have agreed with Bishop [REDACTED] to "loan" Father Schmitz money to pay his attorney. So that we would not be seen to be involved in the case, I have agreed to send Father Schmitz a check for his attorney fees through Bishop [REDACTED]. Please check with me to see what account we would debit.

Please make a check out to John Schmitz in the amount of [REDACTED] and give me the check.

Archbishop [REDACTED]

Schmitz-TC0107



archdiocese dubuque

Office of the Archbishop

1229 Mt. Loretta • P.O. Box 479 • Dubuque, Iowa 52004-0479 • Phone (319) 556-2580

MEMO

TO: [REDACTED]
FROM: Archbishop [REDACTED]
RE: Father John Schmitz
DATE: November 29, 1990

Father John Schmitz is in some sort of litigation in Waterloo. As you know, he is not a priest in good standing in the Archdiocese of Dubuque, and consequently we do not take responsibility for his actions.

On the other hand, we have been supporting him out of charity. I have agreed with Bishop [REDACTED] to "loan" Father Schmitz money to pay his attorney. So that we would not be seen to be involved in the case, I have agreed to send Father Schmitz a check for his attorney fees through Bishop [REDACTED]. Please check with me to see what account we would debit.

Please make a check out to John Schmitz in the amount of [REDACTED] and give me the check.

[REDACTED]
Archbishop [REDACTED]

ARCHDIOCESE OF DUBUQUE

DUBUQUE, IOWA

I, the undersigned, ~~was~~ John Schmitz, acknowledge receipt of a loan from the Archdiocese of Dubuque in the amount of [REDACTED], and I promise and agree to repay said loan as soon as possible.

Signature: _____

John A. Schmitz

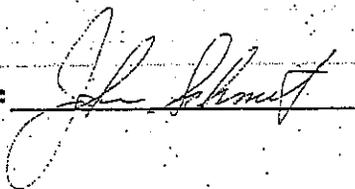
Date: _____

12-6-90

ARCHDIOCESE OF DUBUQUE

DUBUQUE, IOWA

I, the undersigned, Rev. John Schmitz, acknowledge receipt of a loan from the Archdiocese of Dubuque in the amount of [REDACTED], and I promise and agree to repay said loan as soon as possible.

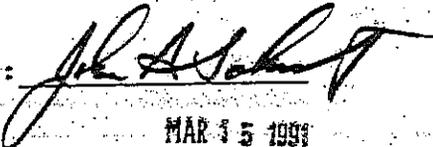
Signature: 

Date: 1-29-91

ARCHDIOCESE OF DUBUQUE

DUBUQUE, IOWA

I, the undersigned, John Schmitz, acknowledge receipt of a loan from the Archdiocese of Dubuque in the amount of [REDACTED] and I promise and agree to repay said loan as soon as possible.

Signature: 

MAR 15 1998

Date: _____

March 19, 1991

Most Rev. [REDACTED]
Bishop for the Waterloo Region
P.O. Box 2594
Waterloo, Iowa 50704-2594

Dear Bishop [REDACTED],

Enclosed you will find a check to Father John Schmitz for [REDACTED]. This is considered a loan and would ask that Father Schmitz sign the enclosed promissory note and return to me.

Feel free to call if you have questions.

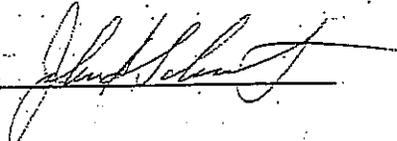
Sincerely,

[REDACTED]
Finance Officer

ARCHDIOCESE OF DUBUQUE

DUBUQUE, IOWA

I, the undersigned, John Schmitz, acknowledge receipt of a loan from the Archdiocese of Dubuque in the amount of [REDACTED], and I promise and agree to repay said loan as soon as possible.

Signature: 

Date: 3/20/91

August 22, 1960

Your Excellency,

Following our conversation just now and in accordance with your instructions, I want to inform you that Father John A. Schmitz has touched my breasts, that he has caused me to take off my clothes in his presence, that he himself has taken off his clothes in my presence, that he has caused me to lie on top of him five or six times, that once he lay on top of me, and that he penetrated my body in at least one of these contacts.

I have been going to Confession to Father Schmitz while these things have been going on.


Subscribed and sworn to before me this 22nd.
day of August 1960.


Rev: 
Chancellor

Schmitz-TC0121

August 22, 1960

Your Excellency,

Following our conversation just now and in accordance with your instructions, I want to inform you that Father John A. Schmitz has touched my breasts, that he has caused me to take off my clothes in his presence, that he himself has taken off his clothes in my presence, that he has caused me to lie on top of him five or six times, that once he lay on top of me, and that he penetrated my body in at least one of these contacts.

I have been going to Confession to Father Schmitz while these things have been going on.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 22nd.
day of August 1960.

Rev. [REDACTED]
Chancellor

Schmitz-TC0122

August 22, 1960

Your Excellency,

Following our conversation just now and in accordance with your instructions, I want to inform you that Father John A. Schmitz has touched my breasts, that he has caused me to take off my clothes in his presence, that he himself has taken off his clothes in my presence, that he has caused me to lie on top of him five or six times, that once he lay on top of me, and that he penetrated my body in at least one of these contacts.

I have been going to Confession to Father Schmitz while these things have been going on.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 22nd.
day of August 1960.

Rev. _____
Chancellor

August 23, 1960

Your Excellency,

In answer to the questions you have asked me, I reply as follows:

1. I have touched the breasts of [REDACTED]
2. I have caused [REDACTED] to take off her clothes in my presence;
3. I have taken off my clothes in the presence of [REDACTED];
4. I have caused her to lie on top of me once with clothes removed, with clothes on possibly twice, also several times she sat on my lap with clothes on and she may have considered that she was lying on me;
5. Once I lay on top of [REDACTED] with clothes off;
6. I admit that there was penetration of the vagina, but only of the outer opening. This occurred but once.

I deny absolutely that there was at any time a case of ABSOLUTIO COMPLICIS. I told [REDACTED] never to come to me to confess anything concerned with our sinful relationship; and she told me she went to Father [REDACTED] to confession. The Confessionals are so located at Sacred Heart Church that you see the approaching penitent. [REDACTED] did come to me once to my knowledge when these sins could have been confessed. I did not give her absolution and told her to go to another Confessor. She did come to Confession several times when there was no evil relationship to be confessed.

For the record I desire to say that there was absolutely no case of SOLLICITATIO. I was most careful to avoid any conversation which could be interpreted in any way as sollicitation.

I broke off this relationship with [REDACTED] about June 15 on the day on which a group of girls had assembled for the cleaning of Sacred Heart School. [REDACTED] spoke with me alone on that day. I told her how sinful it was for me to molest her. I offered my apologies and begged forgiveness. We have not met alone at any time since that day.

Rev. [REDACTED]
Chancellor

Rev. John A. Schmitz

Miss

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Telephone

[Redacted]

Dulmage, Iowa

13 years old

has finished 7th grade

[Redacted]

Father

[Redacted]

address

ST. JOSEPH'S CHURCH
NEW HAMPTON, IOWA

PHONE 173

November 13, 1960

His Excellency
The Most Reverend [REDACTED], D.D.
[REDACTED]
Dubuque, Iowa

Your Excellency

You have asked me to state in writing the purpose of our last meeting. I apologize for the delay in accomplishing this task. The reason for the delay is that I wanted to give much consideration to this matter. In stating the purpose of our meeting I must state the circumstances causing me to come to you. I was unaware, at least in my mind, I did not feel I had informed you that I had bound myself to the seal in my conferences with this girl. Father [REDACTED] wanted me to let him include a note to this effect in his confirmation that I had made the required retreat. I asked him not to do this because I didn't think it necessary. As a result he insisted that I come to you myself and tell you this. So the purpose of my coming to you was to tell you I had bound myself under the seal and hadn't told you some facts that would serve in my defense. After giving this considerable thought I feel that even if I could defend myself by things learned in a conference I would gain more. I not use such information even in the face of a civil court trial. This last statement has made me hesitant in writing this letter, because I feel you may want to investigate further. Personally, if the matter can be dropped I would rather that be done.

Thank you for your kindness and assignment to St. Joseph's, New Hampton. I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ

Rev. John A. Schmitz
Rev. John A. Schmitz

Schmitz-TC0126

November 19, 1960

Rev. John A. Schmitz
St. Joseph's Rectory
New Hampton, Iowa

Dear Father Schmitz,

I have received your letter of November 13; and I have no questions to raise in the matter discussed in your communication. I hope that the Lord will bless you abundantly and give you a blessed portion of His priestly spirit both at New Hampton and throughout your life.

With sentiments of esteem and with all good wishes, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Archbishop of Dubuque

C
O
O
P
Y

ST. JOSEPH'S RECTORY
202 NORTH BROADWAY AVENUE
NEW HAMPTON, IOWA

February 16, 1963

Your Excellency

I'm sorry I haven't written sooner, but each day I figured the doctor would give me some definite indication when I would be able to leave the hospital. Yesterday he put a cast on my leg, so now I am able to walk around. I was going to go down & see Bishop [redacted] from Helena, Mont. who is here with back surgery, but they won't let me since he has an infection. I haven't heard today how he is doing but from what sister said yesterday he will be here for at least a week or more yet.

As for us I am concerned the doctor kind of indicated yesterday that I may be able to leave the hospital next week sometime, but I would not be able to go back to my Rectory. I am going to try to twist his arm into letting me get back by Sat. Wednesday. I will be able to go down to Mass tomorrow but I am not sure enough on my feet to attempt to offer Mass myself. I will keep you informed of my condition, and I thank you and all the priests who have remembered me in their Masses & prayers.

God Bless you

Father John Schmitz

February 20, 1963

Rev. John A. Schmitz
St. Joseph's Rectory
New Hampton, Iowa

Dear Father Schmitz:

Your letter of February 16th reassured me. I appreciate the kind thoughtfulness which prompted you to write and tell me how you are getting along, knowing that I would be concerned about your health.

It would seem to me, Father, to be wise to let the Doctor dictate the speed with which you return to normal activity. Much as we need you and want you back on the job, good common sense tells us that surgery means you must go slowly. It will be far better to follow the Doctor's program than to come back quickly and then later on have something else happen because you were not strong enough to take up your work again.

Sickness is a circumstance that comes directly from the Hand of God unless one has been extraordinarily imprudent. Hence your surgery is the direct Will of God for you. I am sure that you are trying to use it in a way that sanctifies your own priestly life.

Last Sunday we had the Departure Ceremony for Father [REDACTED]. It was a simple but beautiful ceremony. As you know well, Father [REDACTED] remains a priest of the Archdiocese and can come back later on and take his rightful place in the Archdiocese. As long as he is a missionary in Latin America he is representing the entire Archdiocese there. His work is a sort of act of gratitude to God for all of the blessings of the past and the present.

As you can well imagine it isn't only the priests who go as missionaries to Latin America who are involved in the missionary program of the Archdiocese. All of the priests, religious and laity can have and should have some part in it. Encouragement, financial support and particularly prayers and sacrifices are vitally needed and will always be needed.

Asking God's abundant blessings on you and your zealous work for the Church, I remain

Faternally yours in Christ,

Archbishop of Dubuque

Schmitz-TC0129

COPY

ST. JOSEPH CHURCH

Greeley, Iowa 52050

June 28, 1974

The Most Reverend [REDACTED] D.D.
Archbishop of Dubuque
[REDACTED]
Dubuque, Ia. 52001

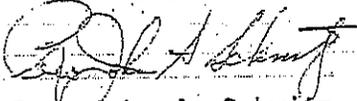
Your Excellency

I have before my your letter appointing me Administrator of St. Peter's Church, Clermont. I thank you for this assignment and assure you that I will do my best to be Christ's personal witness to the people of Clermont.

I am sorry that I did not write sooner. I left June 2, for my vacation, and when I returned I figured I had better get the report out for Fr. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. All is in readiness. The parishioners are having a reception and farewell for Father [REDACTED] Sunday.

Again I thank you for my assignment to St. Peter's and beg your humble pardon for the delay in responding to your letter. I remain,

Sincerely yours in Christ



Rev. John A. Schmitz

St. Peter's Church
Box 25
Clermont, Iowa 52135

June 7, 1975

His Excellency
Most Reverend [REDACTED]
Archdiocesan Center
1229 Mt. Loretta St.
Dubuque, Iowa 52001

Your Excellency:

May the peace of Christ be with you! I have to write this note to apologize to you for some of the things I said and wrote. After leaving your office, I carried a copy of the letter to Father [REDACTED]. He asked me to go to Fathers [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] and talk this over with them to find out what motivated my move and what procedure was followed.

When I was 1st contacted I was told that it was you who made the initial move of offering St. Peter's, and the board was left to find a place for me. In talking with Father [REDACTED] he admitted that it was the Board who made all arrangements. He also admitted that since I was only administrator that there was no need in calling me and informing me that the parish was being offered to someone else. In our discussion Father [REDACTED] admitted that possibly an error was made in disregarding the normal courtesy extended to a fellow priest, but kind of sneeringly said "You'll have to accept it." Father [REDACTED] was under the impression that I had been informed that the parish was being offered to someone else. Father [REDACTED] informed me by letter today that my appointment was only temporary. This all sounds like a comedy of some sort. I suppose this is why I am so upset. But I do want to ask you to forgive me for rash-judging you. I guess we can never be too certain of the information upon which we base our judgements. Please forgive me!

I would have written sooner but I felt the strain of the whole situation getting the best of me, so rather than do something foolish, I left for several days and went down to Conception, and spent the days in prayer at the Monestary. It is difficult to accept some things as the will of God, but as I told you, if it is the will of you and the board that I leave, I must accept it as the will of God. May he be praised in all things.

Whenever someone is hurt by error or the necessity of seeking the greater good, some good should result. I would like to ask you a favor, possibly tragedy like this, and hurt feelings may be avoided. In the past when a priest has been assigned to a parish for the 1st time, it seems he is appointed administrator. Many priests have taken this appointment as administrator to be a courtesy to the rest of his Class who are not receiving parishes. I think we discussed this in our meeting. I don't think anybody has any quarrel with this. My request would be that in my case had not my appointment fallen in this classification and literally been a temporary appointment, filling in until another Pastor could be assigned, could this be indicated in the letter of appointment. Had this been the case I am sure I would not have started everything I did. It would have made my moving now easier, and also the parishioners would not be as upset and could easily understand that the appointment is only temporary. We want fraternity and love. This could be only a little step, but a big one. Again Forgive me, as I remain your

Schmitz-TC0131

June 10, 1975

Rev. John A. Schmitz
St. Peter's Church
Box 25
Clermont, Iowa 52135

Dear Father Schmitz:

Thank you for your letter of June 7.

I knew at the time of your last visit with me that you were upset and disturbed and I could see the same running through your letter you left with me. You can be sure that I was not offended by what you wrote nor by what you said. I know you well enough to realize that some of the letter and some of what you said were not the real Father Schmitz.

I do approve your sitting down and writing your letter because your letter surfaced all your feelings and this is the only way actually to get rid of them.

Asking Our Blessed Lady's powerful intercession for you, I remain

Your brother in Christ,

Most Rev. [REDACTED]
Archbishop of Dubuque



CHANCERY OF THE ARCHDIOCESE OF DUBUQUE

1229 MT. LORETTA AVE.
POST OFFICE BOX 479
DUBUQUE, IOWA 52001

Memo: To Archbishop [REDACTED]
From: Bishop [REDACTED]
Re: Fr. John A. Schmitz
Date: May 14, 1980

Your Excellency,

Wednesday morning, May 14, I received a phone call around 5:45 a. m. from a woman registering a complaint and concern about Fr. John A. Schmitz who was sexually involved with her approximately eight months ago while he was pastor of Sacred Heart parish, St. Anthony's. I received the impression n/ that she was seeing Father for counseling.

The party apologized for calling at an unreasonable hour, but did so because her husband was away on business and hopefully the children were asleep and would not hear the phone conversation. She also indicated that after many anguished, distressing and mentally-emotional months, she made a decision to discuss with someone the sexual involvement with Fr. Schmitz. Thus, she ~~was~~ visited with Father [REDACTED], pastor of St. Mary's, Eldora, the previous Tuesday nite, May 13 and related Father Schmitz's sexual behaviour with her and also expressed concern and fear that the episode would become public knowledge. Under no circumstances is she will to make a public charge because she does not want to destroy her marriage and family life, and is very fearful of her husband's reaction. She mentioned that she is 46 years ~~at~~ old and the mother of 4 children. Her husband works in [REDACTED] and she is [REDACTED].

I did not ask for the party's name or further details because I was given permission to contact Father [REDACTED], Eldora, to confirm the story and the matter that she was relaying to me. I was also given permission to contact the priest she went to confession to a few months ago. I indicated that was not possible because of the confessional seal. She did mention the town, however. I was also given permission to inform Your Excellency. Though she is not willing to have her name used, she did want to bring the problem to church authorities so that other women may not become involved, especially on the parish level and those making a Cursillo. In a phone conversation after the incident (s) she said "I'm a little concerned what God thinks of this" & Fr. Schmitz said "whats to be ashamed of".

P.S. I called Fr. [REDACTED] a couple times and did reach him by phone Friday afternoon, May 23 around 4:30 p.m. Father confirmed that she had visited with him about the problem. He felt that he could not say too much because some information was confessional matter. Evidently, Father Schmitz's actions with ^{his wife} other women making the Cursillo at St. Patrick's, Cedar Falls. Fr. [REDACTED] mentioned that this fact was ~~also~~ also brought to his attention by Mrs. [REDACTED] the [REDACTED].

I advised Father [REDACTED] that no more would be expected of him by us at this time. Father also mentioned that the party who called me has a history of emotional problems.

Schmitz-TC0133

Memo: To Archbishop [REDACTED]
From: Bishop [REDACTED]
Re: Fr. John A. Schmitz
Date: May 14, 1980

Your Excellency,

Wednesday morning, May 14, I received a phone call around 5:45 a.m. from a woman registering a complaint and concern about Fr. John A. Schmitz who was sexually involved with her approximately eight months ago while he was pastor of Sacred Heart parish, St. Anthony's. I received the impression that she was seeing Father for counseling.

The party apologized for calling at an unreasonable hour, but did so because her husband was away on business and hopefully the children were asleep and would not hear the phone conversation. She also indicated that after many anguished, distressing and mentally-emotional months, she made a decision to discuss with someone the sexual involvement with Fr. Schmitz. Thus, she ~~was~~ visited with Father [REDACTED] pastor of St. Mary's, Eldora, the previous Tuesday nite, May 13 and related Father Schmitz's sexual behaviour with her and also expressed concern and fear that the episode would become public knowledge. Under no circumstances is she will to make a public charge because she does not want to destroy her marriage and family life, and is very fearful of her husband's reaction. She mentioned that she is 46 years ~~at~~ old and the mother of 4 children. Her husband works in [REDACTED] and she is [REDACTED].

I did not ask for the party's name or further details because I was given permission to contact Father [REDACTED], Eldora, to confirm the story and the matter that she was relaying to me. I was also given permission to contact the priest she went to confession to a few months ago. I indicated that was not possible because of the confessional seal. She did mention the town, however. I was also given permission to inform Your Excellency. Though she is not willing to have her name used, she did want to bring the problem to church authorities so that other women may not become involved, especially on the parish level and those making a Cursillo.

P.S. I called Fr. [REDACTED] a couple times and did reach him by phone Friday afternoon, May 23 around 4:30 p.m. Father confirmed that she had visited with him about the problem. He felt that he could not say too much because some information was confessional matter. Evidently, Father Schmitz's actions with other women making the Cursillo at St. Patrick's, Cedar Falls. Fr. [REDACTED] mentioned that this fact was also brought to his attention by Mrs. [REDACTED] the [REDACTED].

I advised Father [REDACTED] that no more would be expected of him by us at this time. Father also mentioned that the party who called me has a history of emotional problems.

March 7, 1981

MEMO TO FR. [REDACTED], P.A.B. MEMBERS, ARCHBISHOP:

Well, you didn't listen when you were asked not to send Fr. John Schmitz to Greene, so what was feared has now happened: we are in the midst of a full-scale scandal. He has installed his whore in the rectory, along with her two small children, and as they go holding hands down Main Street, people say, "there goes the 'hole-y family'". And they ask us, "How is Fr. Schmitz and his whore today?" Our town is predominantly Protestant, and they are laughing at us.

This woman even asked the Country Club for a "family membership" at the Country Club, for herself as well as Father. [REDACTED] a membership he got by selling Parish trees to [REDACTED] for a personal Country Club membership for himself.

Townpeople are laughing at our Church. It has become the biggest joke. What a scandal!

If you don't do something, like get him out of here, I hope you are ready to share this scandal. Many people have left the Parish, and many more will follow. The two trustees have resigned. Mr. [REDACTED] has also taken his child out of C.C.D. classes.

We aren't going to pay for a house for him and his whore, either. You can pay for it yourself. And if you don't get him out of here, we will consider taking this matter to higher authority, for we are FED UP!

You can contact Mrs. [REDACTED], [REDACTED], or Mrs. [REDACTED] for verification or details. Mrs. [REDACTED] is a member of the Parish Council, and Mrs. [REDACTED] is the D.R.E.

N.B. I visited with Fr Schmitz about this anonymous letter and he assured me that there is nothing immoral between him & the housekeeper

+JJB

March 13, 1981

Memo: To Archbishop [REDACTED]
From: Bishop [REDACTED]
Date: Tues., Jan 26, 1982
Re: Fr. John A. Schmitz

Archbishop,

This morning at 8:45 I received a phone call from a Mrs. [REDACTED] ~~from~~ a member of St. Mary's Parish, Greene. Over a fifteen minute period she listed a number of complaints against Fr. and the harm he was doing to the parish. The call apparantly was occasioned by a phone call to her from a lawyer's wife indicating that a woman came to her crying because of something that happened between her and the woman. The lawyer's wife did not give the parties name to Mrs. [REDACTED].

I recommended to Mrs. [REDACTED] that the complaints should be put in writing, and it would be helpful if signed. Though we would not reveal the name of the sender. She advised that her husband did not want her to sign alone, but she felt others would be willing to sign because so many families are very disturbed over Fr.'s conduct and the scandal to the parish and the Greene community.

If it is necessary to impress the seriousness of the matter, they are willing to bring a delegation to Dubuque to meet with your Excellency.

Feb. 10, 1982

P.S. The enclosed communication was received from Mrs. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Greene (50636) Feb. 4 8 and mailed Feb. 5.

12

February 20, 1982
Greene, Iowa

Your Excellency Archbishop [redacted]

My name is [redacted]. I am a member of St. Mary's parish in Greene, Iowa. My wife's name is [redacted]. We have five lovely children. I am writing this letter with a lot of reservations and anxiety. It probably should have been done a long time ago. I feel that my Christian responsibility is to express my feelings about what has happened in our church and how it has almost destroyed a good Catholic family.

In December of 1979, Father John Schmitz came to Greene. Our first impressions of him were fantastic. We were in need of a strong spiritual leader after some of our parish's previous problems. He looked like God's blessing to what our parish needed and what our family needed. My wife became church secretary in January of 1980 and worked on a volunteer basis for 8 months. She did a tremendous job and really did a lot to get our parish records in order and help Father Schmitz incorporate his new programs. She was one of Father's biggest supporters. She literally worked her heart out and with 5 children at home, that was quite a commitment. I supported her in her work and helped out at home as much as I could. She enjoyed what she was doing and I was glad to see her happy as she hadn't worked up until this time.

During this time I became a Eucharistic Minister, was very active in getting the new building project started and a member of the building committee. Both [redacted] and I attended a Cursillo week-end and attended the parish Renewal week-end. Two of my sons were altar boys. We were really contributing to and enjoying our Catholic community. I had never felt better about my Church and God. Then the roof fell in on everything we believed in just about.

Here is a partial account of what has transpired in the last 24 months and the reasons that my marriage and Catholic faith have suffered greatly. [redacted] does not go to church regularly, when we do it is in Charles City, our kids will not be around Father Schmitz let alone be altar boys, they miss CCD when he is the instructor, they cannot pass certain Boy Scout merit badges because they will not go to him to get them passed. We did not support our parish financially as well as we would have liked to last year, but we plan on continuing our support when he is gone. I have become inactive on the Building Committee, will not be Eucharistic Minister until he is gone.

What has happened in the last 2 years is a night mare. I can't believe it has happened but I guess now it is time to face facts. My wife [redacted] has suffered beyond my comprehension, she is not a strong person and she has almost been destroyed but somehow she has had the strength to endure. We are not going to let Father Schmitz hurt us anymore. [redacted] does not know that I am writing this letter or that I signed the letter that several concerned parishioners sent to you. I don't want to hurt her any more but I have decided that my Christian duty has to be met.

Here is a partial list of what we have experienced during the last 2 years with our priest, Father Schmitz.

1. One Sunday before Mass when my 16 year old son was an altar boy Father falsely accused him with gestures of drinking to the Eucharistic Minister who was the high school principal.
2. Father has told off-colored jokes to both my sons before Mass when they were altar boys.
3. Father personally took a list or told a local business establishment in Greene that two of my sons were stealing from that store. There were also several other Catholic boys' names mentioned. Father did not contact us or our sons before this accusation was made. To our knowledge, the accusations were unfounded and his information was based strictly on rumor and not fact. I feel that we should have been contacted on this matter before our boy's reputation was threatened so that we as parents could deal with it.
4. He has made sexual advances to my wife on several occasions in counseling using God's word and Jesus Christ to persuade her into a sexual relationship. He told her that he could make her a whole person if she would do what he said and he further said that he was doing just what Jesus Christ would do if He was on earth. The bottom line to me without any more gory details is that he used his power as a priest to fulfil his personal needs for sex with my wife. This man has power beyond my comprehension. I don't think you can risk anymore innocent people being hurt by this man.
5. Father misrepresented the building project to the Building Committee, the Parish Council, and the parish. He is financially irresponsible at making decisions that are best for the parish. He uses personal greed and wants to make his decisions quite often. He has directly lied to me on several matters when I was on the Building Committee. For example, Father stated that a fireplace that he wanted in the new rectory would be paid for by him. It was included (\$800 +) in the expenses of the new building. The Building Committee voted on several things that he later changed on his own. One specific was floor covering in the basement that the Committee felt should be delayed until final cost figures were obtained and we found out how we were doing financially. Father on his own went ahead and had it done, saying that he got special donations for it.
6. When working in the office, [redacted] noticed that he used the Cemetery Fund to purchase a video tape machine. She found this most unusual and felt this was strictly a want of Father's, not a need of the parish. He does not go through proper channels (presenting to the Parish Council or Trustees before he spends money). He may have replaced the money from the Cemetery Fund as recorded in a small black record book - I do not know.

As you can see, Archbishop, our faith has been really put to the test. Why the good Lord feels that we are up to this kind of challenge I don't know. So far we have survived and that is about all. Our parish is suffering. We are taught not to judge, "that ye but not judged". I will leave the judging up to you. We are also taught that it is unChristian to have the feelings and experiences that I have and not share them with someone that would prevent further damage from happening to other good Christians.

I hope that this letter will help you do whatever it is that you feel is best. My wife and I and our 5 children have suffered greatly because of this man. My wife cannot bring herself at this time to write this letter. She alone walked out of that office September, 1980 and has never been back and has held her frustrations inside her until this January when she talked to me. After this much time she doesn't want to relive the night mare - she wants to forget and get on with living a happy life with me and the children. Unfortunately, this is very difficult if not impossible with this man, Father Schmitz still here. As church secretary under this man my wife observed many other parishioners in their contact with Father and how he treated them and how their lives were affected by this man's personal desires - not what was best for them. She holds what has happened in her job as confidential information even though the consequences to many of her friends are very hard for her to live with. I admire [redacted] for carrying the burdens of confidentiality but it has been extremely hard. She keeps hoping that he will just leave but it just goes on.

I trust you don't need any more trash dug up. I hope that this letter can be kept confidential to protect my wife from suffering any more of a small town scandal than we already have. [redacted] is scared to death of this man and how he could use his power to destroy us.

Archbishop, this has been the hardest letter I have written in my 37 years. I don't want to be a martyr or I don't claim to be a perfect Christian. My prayers are with you in the difficult task that you face.

Sincerely,

[redacted signature]

1. Assessment of Reconciliation

- a) come with empathy, kindly, poor, advise as
- b) clear my conscience, left my burden
- c) need to have you give me spiritual guidance
- d) come with no proofs, only word & my heart

2. father admiring coming to Parish

- a) reaction of joy - wonderful priest
- b) Parish happy, inspired,
- c) Thankful for strong spiritual leader

3. father requesting me to be secretary - Jan, 1981

- a) Neighbors approval, help w/ 5 children
- b) volunteer leave - God has been good to me - wanted to do for Him & my church
- c) recommendations from doctor to spend time from home.

- d) Not a professional, never worked before, family
- e) thankful about past - 5 yrs ago invited breakdown
- f) I was happy doing steroids, breakdown, as
- g) felt strongly committed to professional ethics demanded in working in a ^{hospital} ~~year~~

4. Parish Reopened father started - God

- a) Room of reconciliation
- b) Parish council
- c) Empirical therapist
- d) Renewal - week-end
- e) youth ministry
- f) curricula
- g) Pastoral Planning

5. Accountability of finances

- a) my records accurate.
- b) questioned taking \$ from Parish collection to buy me 3 birthday dress. I put \$100 back into collection to cover
- c) Cemetery fund - black book, video tapes
- d) I made decision on \$10,000 into savings ~~with~~ NOT my job

6. Father's developing outlook on Relationships

Bill

- a) total lack of confidence of Paul's counsel, S.M.
- b) realized his ideas
- c) any stupid person can teach C.D.
- d) belittling, condescending to his people

7. ^{to 1969} Moved to Williams in Father's talk

- a) Priority outlook changed after retreat 5-9 yrs
- b) Belittling you, argue at returning from retreat, immediate, not seeing him soon
- c) Letter he directed to you personally
"Belittling wrong with you is that you've never held a child of God"
- d) much talk about Abel and from previous parish - no information to me - proof needed in case of his

8. Placements of mine

- a) Ecumenical Ministries before approval
- b) Confessionals - what total, no names below
Name Person, setting on, ridiculed & laughed at her, problem to me. She went to Baptist minister
- c) calls to be counseled - no time
- d) Marriage counseling - "felix for young boy"
- e) work and women meeting, 1968 - ^{never met} best to tell

* 9. My own Personal need for marriage

- a) Counseling several mo. after starting work
- b) Love husband, but needed spiritual guidance to fulfill natural duties marriage entails.
- c) "Want to follow Jesus" & his teaching of love
- d) Hypnosis (?) could hear, not see, speak "follows Me"

I questioned putting my conscience in his hands. Do you know, father, what you are saying. "Yes." And you want to be responsible to God for this? "Yes, I will take total responsibility for God. God knows this is right." "He himself would do no less for someone he need of Him."

And the commandments? "Christ's coming & has 'Love Thy Neighbor' ^{from the} And celebrity, father, what does that mean to you?" "That I will never marry."

- a) ~~_____~~ e) Talk of my emotions w/ Ann
- b) ~~_____~~ f) is this better than w/ Gary
- c) None g) "Intimacy" Tape - duty to self "as secretary"
- d) Des Mairies - h) write love notes with him.

Would God the father do this, ^{yes} for one of his children? Yes, he wants you to love yourself.

Would Christ ~~if he were on earth~~ do this

for a woman? Yes, look at Mary Magdalene. Does a ^{family} father have a right to teach a daughter about sex in this manner?

"Yes, without a doubt it she is in need" A father - do you realize your position, your responsibility as a priest. Yes, he said, and it frightened me

Confession to Fr. Schmitz

Father Schmitz believe what he did is

Right & perfectly justified in the eyes of God. Out of Blind Obedience with questions & Reservations, I follow Very immature & sorry.

St. Mary's - Human and Spiritual Problem

His Brothers will take care of him
I have no responsibility to expose.

- 10. In Sept. 1980 I made a conscious decision to quit my work, and never to return to the Rectory again as long as father is here. I wanted to go back to my family where I belonged. Bishop [redacted] - Eros Philia Agape.
- 11. It has been almost like hell to live with my self.
- 12. Another secretary filled in for a short time, then [redacted] and her 3 children moved in. I have pity for one's my God daughter & I fear for her. This has put a bad image on our father told me he "loved" [redacted] He said her parents approve. I don't believe them moving in together.
- 13. The Parish is suffering, sad, confused. People feel you know what kind of man you sent her I can't take that chance, that's why I'm here to witness.
- 14. My fears: Anger - Revenge of father - my children Kibal/ suit - scared, weigh words, why I'm here. Others to be hurt. My wrong doing to God.
- 15. Lies to my brother about me saying I have problems, hated toward his wife. Housekeeper [redacted] - lie as to why I quit. Stealing - drinking beer - children I don't trust father's word at all.
- 16. I cannot forget - and am having trouble relating. Very upset - held it in for 14 years. Confused, Medicines, drink to escape thoughts. Not attend Mass. wife or mother duties suffer. Financial support less. Bitter toward [redacted]
- 17. Please Help. Please forgive me, our father, forgive

- ① Confession - impurity with father
- record his abolutions and penance
- ②
- only nominal east -

I, [REDACTED], testify that I observed acts of impurity with Father John A. Schmitz in the Sacrament of Reconciliation and he, as Priest, gave me absolution and penance.

[REDACTED]

St. Mary's Church

GREENE, IOWA

March 12, 1982

Archbishop [REDACTED]
Archdiocesan Center
1229 Mt. Loretta Ave.
Dubuque, Iowa 52001

Dear Archbishop [REDACTED],

I wish to inform you that as I mail this letter I am on my way out of Greene. As I leave I will be leaving behind many good and loyal people, people who have supported me to the very moment I left. I have thanked them publicly. I wish also to thank you, Archbishop for giving me the opportunity to serve these good people of God.

The ideal for my priesthood was first implanted in me by the priest who baptized me, Father [REDACTED]. As we grew up and attended school Father [REDACTED] was out with us taking us in his arms and doing what our paternal fathers would do. Then as I began studying for the priesthood I realized more and more Father [REDACTED] was just imitating Christ and putting into practice what Christ told the Apostles, "Let the little children come to me." I remember clearly in our home the picture of Christ with little children setting on his lap. When I became a priest my obsession was that my priesthood and relationship to people reflect this scene of Christ surrounded by little children.

When the record album of "Jesus Christ Super Star" appeared I was very upset because I did not feel that the life of Christ was portrayed in a reverent manner. As I was exposed to this music and words of the lyrics I began to see another facet of Christ's life, that I had to introduce into my own life as a priest, and that was one of compassion, sympathy, understanding and ability to make a sinner at ease in my presence as Christ did to the sinners who came to him. This was reinforced during the 30 day retreat when we spent a whole day meditating on the women of Christ's life. Mary, Mary Magdalene, Martha, the Mary that washed the feet of Christ, the woman taken in adultery.

Certainly, Mary the Mother of Christ, our own mothers, bring out of us a deep respect, honor, love, etc. They evoke from us affection and expression of affection. But as we study the lives of the other women in Christ's life we have to ask how did he make them feel comfortable in his presence, especially, the woman who washed the feet of Christ with her tears. Women weren't allowed by custom in the room where men were eating except to serve the men and their desires. Certainly, then as this woman comes and kneels next to Christ and begins to wash his feet with her tears everyone in the room would be moved to say "does he not know who this woman is?" "What she is doing?" "She is an adulteress". Christ answered these questions by showing those present that they his host, had not shown the ordinary human courtesies of the time and he turned to the woman, we don't know whether he touched her or simply looked at her, and said "your sins are forgiven you". Christ in this relationship exposed himself to being called an adulterer.

In his relationship with others Christ left himself open to be called a sinner in many ways. Matthias the tax collector, was a thief, thus Christ was called a thief and so on down the line. I, if I am to be like Christ must prepare and expect to be accused in this same way. I guess one might say it is the proof of my likeness to Christ.

When you brought the accusations against me several weeks ago, Archbishop, I was stunned, confused. As I left, a certain amount of anger was building up within me, but as I began to say my rosary on the way home a peace again came over me. I reminded myself that anger would get me nowhere, it would only hinder me from making good Christian decisions. I pledged to myself that I would continue to keep up my prayer life. As days went on the psalms became more real, I looked at this as my Job or Abraham experience. I could not help but think of Christ, the accusations brought against him. When they began the accusations were one thing, at the trial something different and as the story was related afterward, still the accusations were again different. I have the opportunity to again be like Christ. Not to refute, not to fight back, but to allow the accusations brought against me to be the instrument and means for me to accomplish the very purpose in life that I seek. The accusations brought against Christ resulted in our redemption. I am sure the accusations brought against me will not result in the redemption of the world but my own, and maybe some others.

I am prepared to do all in my power to continue to be a priest of God, and serve as another Christ. It is in light of what I have written, Archbishop, that I say thank you for all you have done for me. This will be an experience of growth for me.

Respectfully yours,


Rev. John A. Schmitz

JAS:zak
cc

June 8, 1982

Rev. John A. Schmitz
1802 Franklin Street
Waterloo, Iowa

Dear Father Schmitz:

Enclosed please find check for the month of May.

Please excuse the delay in sending this to you.

Asking Our Blessed Lady's powerful interces-
sion for you and for your intentions, I remain

Your brother in Christ,

Most Rev. [REDACTED]
Archbishop of Dubuque

C
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July 30, 1982

Rev. John A. Schmitz
[REDACTED]

Jemez Springs, New Mexico

Dear Father Schmitz,

Enclosed is a check of [REDACTED] for the month of July.

When you have an opportunity, I would be very interested in hearing how you are getting along and your evaluation of the program that you are following. I know that you have been working at it only a short time, but you surely have some thinking about it.

Asking Our Blessed Lady's powerful intercession for you and for your intentions, I remain

Your brother in Christ,

Most Rev. [REDACTED]
Archbishop of Dubuque

Schmitz-TC0150

October 12, 1982

Rev. John A. Schmitz
[REDACTED]
Jemez Springs, New Mexico

Dear Father Schmitz:

Enclosed is the check for the month of September. I was hoping to hear from you and so I did not send the check earlier.

Since last month, Father [REDACTED] died... may God rest his soul!

Likely you have had warmer weather than we have. Our weather is really Fall weather. Today the sun is shining brightly, but yesterday it was overcast almost all day long. Heat is necessary in our buildings.

Loras College is off to a good start. Its student population is about the same as it was last year.

I hope that during the past month the value of the program that you are in is more and more evident to you. Your own cooperation with it is an essential part of getting full help from it.

Asking Our Blessed Lady's powerful intercession for you always, I remain

Your brother in Christ,

Most Rev. [REDACTED]
Archbishop of Dubuque

Schmitz-TC0151

C
O
P
Y

December 1, 1982

Rev. John A. Schmitz
[REDACTED]

Waterloo, Iowa

Dear Father Schmitz:

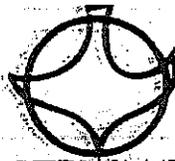
In accordance with your letter of November 20, I am sending this check for the month of November so that it will be waiting for you when you get to Waterloo. I do hope and pray that you are satisfied with your stay at [REDACTED]. I also pray God that you will find apostolic work in some other diocese.

Assuring you of my prayers and asking Our Blessed Lady's powerful intercession for you always, I remain

Your brother in Christ,

Most Rev. [REDACTED]
Archbishop of Dubuque

C
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SERVANTS
of the
PARACLETE

January 19, 1983

Archbishop [REDACTED]
Archdiocesan Center
1229 Mt. Loretta Ave.
Dubuque, Ia. 52001

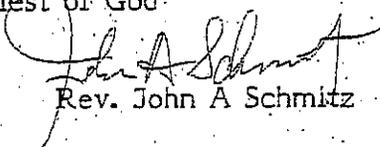
Dear Archbishop [REDACTED]

It has been called to my attention that the Archdiocese of Dubuque is responsible for providing health insurance and providing for my retirement until I am incardinated into another diocese. I have checked with number of canon lawyers and they agree with this advice. You will be receiving correspondence concerning this matter from the Chancery of the Diocese of San Bernardino, Calif.

I was also informed that the Archdiocese was responsible for providing for me until such a time as I would be given an assignment in my own diocese or another diocese. Fr. [REDACTED] sP, will be sending a bill for my stay here at Cherry Valley. I will be a guest of the Servants of the Paraclete, 39100 Orchard St., Cherry Valley, Calif, 92223, until the personel board can meet and arrange an assignment for me in the Diocese of San Bernardino. The board is not scheduled to meet until January 26. I will be meeting regularly with [REDACTED] the house psychologist and this bill will also be forwarded to you, since this is part of the ongoing treatment of the program at Jemez, Springs.

I am sure this matter will be handled promptly and in such a way that my health insurance will not be in jeopardy. I thank you for your kind consideration of this matter, and pray God will give you the fulness of his love and graces. I remain

A priest of God


Rev. John A Schmitz

CC: Chancery San Bernardino
Fr. [REDACTED]
Report to Rome
File

Schmitz-TC0153

January 21, 1983

Reverend [REDACTED]
1450 N. D. Street
San Bernardino, CA. 92405

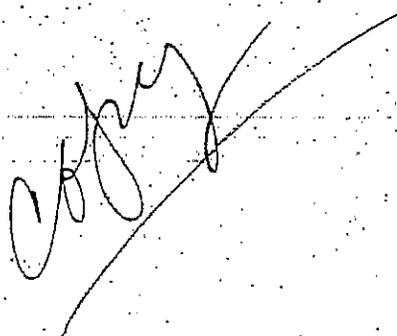
Dear Father [REDACTED];

Please find inclosed a copy of the letter that I sent to Archbishop [REDACTED] advising him that the Archdiocese of Dubuque, would be expected to provide my health insurance and retirement benefits during the period before I am incardinated into the Diocese of San Bernardino.

I am looking forward to working in the Diocese of San Bernardino, and pray each day that I will be able to be another Christ to God's dear children. I remain

Sincerely Yours in Christ

Rev. John A. Schmitz

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John A. Schmitz', written over a horizontal line.

January 25, 1983

Rev. [REDACTED] s. P.
Servants of the Paraclete
39100 Orchard Avenue
Cherry Valley, California

Dear Father [REDACTED],

You have received a copy of a letter that Father John A. Schmitz sent to me, and so, in order that there will be no confusion, I feel that I must write to you at once.

Allow me to quote from a letter that I sent to Father [REDACTED] s. P. (Foundation House, Jemez Springs, New Mexico):

In our discussions, I assured Father Schmitz that the program would terminate early in December. In your June 15, 1982, letter to me, you indicated that this program would be completed on Saturday, December 4, 1982. Consequently, the archdiocese will not be financially responsible for him after that date.

There has been no change in that thinking; and consequently, what Father Schmitz wrote to you is on his own authority.

Asking Our Blessed Lady's powerful intercession for you always, I remain

Faternally yours in Christ,

Most Rev. [REDACTED]
Archbishop of Dubuque

Schmitz-TC0155

January 25, 1983

Rev. John A. Schmitz
[REDACTED]
Cherry Valley, California

Dear Father Schmitz,

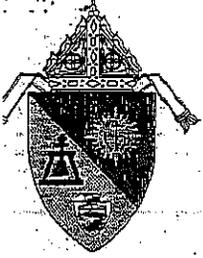
I have received your letter of January 19, 1983. After receiving it, I called Father [REDACTED] Secretary-Treasurer of the St. Raphael Priest Fund Society, and directed that your Blue Cross-Blue Shield will be in force until July 1, 1983.

As far as your present situation is concerned, I notified Father [REDACTED] in a letter to him on November 3, 1982, that the archdiocese would not be responsible for you financially after December 4, 1982. I am writing a letter to Father [REDACTED] [REDACTED] informing him of that fact.

Asking Our Blessed Lady's powerful intercession for you and for your intentions, I remain

Your brother in Christ,

Most Rev. [REDACTED]
Archbishop of Dubuque



Diocesan Pastoral Center

Chancellor of Pastoral Affairs

Diocese of San Bernardino

January 28, 1983

Archbishop [REDACTED]
Archdiocesan Center
1229 Mt. Loretta Avenue
Dubuque, IA 52001

Dear Archbishop Byrne:

We have been approached by one of the priests from the Presbyterate of your Diocese, Father John A. Schmitz, in regard to working in the Diocese of San Bernardino.

He has been a guest with the Servants of the Paraclete for a while and now wishes to return to the active ministry. No pathology or illness was discovered by his therapists.

In an effort to reach out and try to help our brother priest, we are willing to employ Father Schmitz, with your permission, on a temporary basis at one of our parishes here. His situation vis-a-vis health insurance and retirement is not at all clear. We presume he is covered by the plans in his Diocese of incardination.

I would appreciate hearing from you, so that no ambiguity exists in these areas.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

[REDACTED]
Very Reverend [REDACTED]
Chancellor, Pastoral Affairs

PAB/rs

cc: Reverend John A. Schmitz

Schmitz-TC0157

ST GEORGE CHURCH

325 WEST "E" STREET • ONTARIO, CALIFORNIA 91762

January 29, 1983

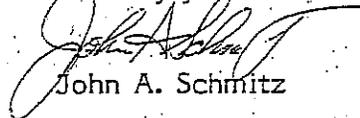
Archbishop [REDACTED]
Archdiocesan Center
1229 Mt. Loretta Ave.
Dubuque, Iowa 52001

Dear Archbishop [REDACTED]:

It is my pleasure to inform you that of January 25 I am beginning an assignment in the Diocese of San Bernardino. I have been assigned as an associate at St. George Parish in Ontario, California. It is my understanding that you would no longer be responsible for providing a stipend for me when I am given an assignment, however it is my understanding that you will still be responsible for providing health insurance and retirement coverage.

I wish to thank you for your kindness and generosity during the past year.

Sincerely yours



John A. Schmitz

February 4, 1983

Rev. John A. Schmitz
St. George Church
325 West "E" Street
Ontario, California

Dear Father Schmitz:

I received your welcome letter of January 29. I am delighted that you have an assignment in the Diocese of San Bernardino.

May I assure you that Blue Cross and Blue Shield health care will cover you for the year 1983 at no expense to you. May I point out that the actual cost of the St. Raphael Priest Fund Society for each priest is [REDACTED]. So the [REDACTED] contribution of the priest is really a good bargain.

After 1983, if you still wish to continue to be a part of our Blue Cross and Blue Shield program, you will be expected to pay the [REDACTED] that each priest pays who is ordained sixteen years or more.

As far as retirement is concerned, you may continue to be a part of our retirement program as long as the parish where you are assigned or you pay the [REDACTED] contribution that is expected for every priest participating in the retirement program.

Along with your letter today I received a letter from Father [REDACTED]. Enclosed is a copy of the letter I sent to him.

Last Saturday and Sunday we received the major snowstorm of this winter... thus far! Around Dubuque the snow fell to about 9 inches. In some parts of the State it was even greater than that.

Asking Our Blessed Lady's powerful intercession for you always,
I remain

Your brother in Christ,

Most Rev. [REDACTED]
Archbishop of Dubuque

Schmitz-TC0159

February 4, 1983

Very Rev. [REDACTED]
Chancellor, Pastoral Affairs
1450 "D" Street
San Bernardino, California

Very Reverend and Dear Father [REDACTED]

I appreciate very much the willingness of the Diocese of San Bernardino to give pastoral employment to Father John A. Schmitz. He did follow the program of the Servants of the Paraclete at Foundation House, Jemez Springs, New Mexico. I do give my permission for this opportunity you are giving him.

In a letter to Father Schmitz I informed him that he is covered by Blue Cross and Blue Shield for the year 1983. If he wishes to continue then, he will be asked to contribute for his health insurance what every other priest does who was ordained sixteen or more years, namely, to pay [REDACTED] annually. The actual cost to the St. Raphael Priest Fund Society for health insurance for a priest during the 1982 year was [REDACTED].

As far as retirement is concerned: Every parish or mission in the Archdiocese of Dubuque that has a full-time priest is asked to pay [REDACTED] towards the retirement benefits of that priest. This sum is an annual contribution. Perhaps the parish where Father is assigned would pay that annual amount.

Asking Our Blessed Lady's continuing powerful intercession for you, Father Behan, and for your intentions, I remain

Fraternally yours in Christ,

Most Rev. [REDACTED]
Archbishop of Dubuque

cc: Rev. John A. Schmitz

Schmitz-TC0160

February 7, 1983

Rev. [REDACTED]
St. Mary's Church
Ackley, Iowa

Dear Father [REDACTED]

Enclosed is a check of [REDACTED] as payment for the 1983 Personal Dues of Father John A. Schmitz, so that he is covered for the year by Blue Cross and Blue Shield.

The copy of a letter that I sent to Father [REDACTED] which I sent you last week, will make it clear what should be our way of handling this matter. The real purpose of this letter is to send you the check of [REDACTED].

Asking Our Blessed Lady's powerful intercession for you always, may I close with my blessing: "Benedictio..." etc.

Your brother in Christ,

Most Rev. [REDACTED]
Archbishop of Dubuque

Schmitz-TC0161

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Y

ST GEORGE CHURCH

325 WEST "E" STREET • ONTARIO, CALIFORNIA 91762

April 13, 1983

Rev. [REDACTED] S.P.
Servants of the Paraclete
Foundation House
Jemez, N.M. 87025

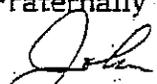
Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your letter of March 23 in which you remind me of the followup workshop June 6 - 11. I will be present for the workshop. I will be driving in so I do not know for sure whether I will arrive Sunday or Monday.

I also consider this an integral part of the contract I made with Archbishop [REDACTED] when I agreed to make the module. I will be informing him also that I will be making the workshop. I am looking forward to returning to Jemez.

I pray that the Staff and men making the module are experiencing the Easter Joy as I am here at St. George. It is truly a joyous and happy time in my life.

Fraternally


Rev. John A. Schmitz

c.c.: The Most Rev. [REDACTED] D.D.

ST GEORGE CHURCH

325 WEST "E" STREET • ONTARIO, CALIFORNIA 91762

April 14, 1983

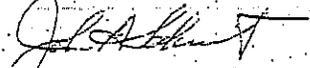
Archbishop [REDACTED]
Archdiocesan Center
1229 Mt. Loretta
Dubuque, Iowa 52001

Dear Archbishop [REDACTED]

I received a letter from Rev. [REDACTED] s.P. March 23, 1983 reminding me of the followup workshop that is an integral part of the module. I will be attending this workshop since it is a sine qua non for making the module. I feel that this is also a part of the contract that I made with you when you asked me to make the module. At that time it was my sincere committment to follow through on tha agreement.

Thank you for your support and prayers.

Sincerely


Rev. John A. Schmitz

C.C.: [REDACTED] s.P.

April 18, 1983

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Rev. [REDACTED] S.P.
Servants of the Paraclete
Foundation House
Jemez Springs, New Mexico

Dear Father [REDACTED]

You have received a copy of the letter I received from Father John A. Schmitz dated April 13, 1983. You already know that the archdiocese will not pay any bill for this followup workshop. It will be up to you to deal with Father Schmitz and the bill.

Asking Our Blessed Lady's powerful intercession for you always, I remain

Faternally yours in Christ,

Most Rev. [REDACTED]
Archbishop of Dubuque



OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY CATHEDRAL

Arrowhead at 25th

265 West 25th Street

San Bernardino, California 92405

714 883-8991

March 1, 1984

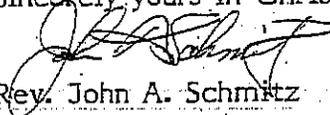
Archbishop [REDACTED] O.S.B.
1229 Mt. Loretta Ave.
Dubuque, Iowa 52001

Dear Archbishop [REDACTED]

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate you on your installation as Archbishop of Dubuque. I am a priest of the Archdiocese and I am looking forward to meeting you. I am currently associate to the Rector of the Cathedral Parish here in San Bernardino, California. I will most likely be getting back to Iowa around the 1st part of May at which time I will arrange to meet with you.

I will be praying that your stay in the Archdiocese of Dubuque will be a very happy experience for you.

Sincerely yours in Christ


Rev. John A. Schmitz

Schmitz-TC0165

March 16, 1984

Rev. John A. Schmitz
Our Lady of the Rosary Cathedral
Arrowhead at 25th
265 West 25th Street
San Bernardino, California 92405

Dear Father John:

Thank you for your letter of March 1. I appreciate your congratulations and especially your prayers.

I will be happy to meet you and to talk with you when you come back to Iowa the first part of May. When you get here, please be sure to call me immediately so I can arrange to set aside some time for you.

Let us pray for each other.

Faternally yours in Christ,

(Most Rev.) [REDACTED], O. S. B.
Archbishop of Dubuque



OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY CATHEDRAL

Arrowhead at 25th
265 West 25th Street
San Bernardino, California 92405
714 883-8991

April 12, 1984

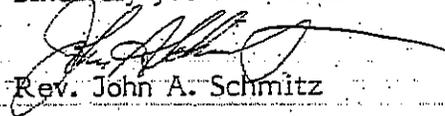
Archbishop [REDACTED]
Archdiocesan Center
1229 Mt. Loretta
Dubuque, Iowa 52001

Dear Archbishop [REDACTED]

I will be coming to visit my family in Waterloo area and will be leaving here May 7 and arrive Iowa late that evening. I will have to return to California May 15, or 16. I would very much appreciate being able to visit with you during that time if you can find time in your busy schedule.

I hope and pray that your stay in Iowa has been a happy and fruitful stay. I will be remembering you in my prayers and masses during this holy season.

Sincerely yours in Christ


Rev. John A. Schmitz

10:15 AM
May 13

Schmitz-TC0167



OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY CATHEDRAL

Arrowhead at 25th
265 West 25th Street
San Bernardino, California 92405
714 883-8991

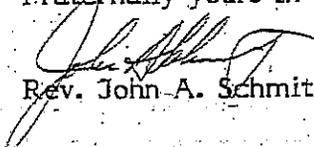
August 28, 1984

Archbishop [REDACTED] O.S.B.
Archdiocesan Center
1229 Mt. Loretta Ave.,
Dubuque, Iowa 52001

Dear Archbishop Kucera

This is just a not to let you know that I will be on vacation in the Waterloo area during the month of September. I will be staying at my mother's home [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Waterloo, Iowa. 50703. Phone [REDACTED] I will be heading back Sept. 27, 1984.

Fraternally yours in Christ


Rev. John A. Schmitz

Schmitz-TC0168

September 7, 1984

Rev. John A. Schmitz
Our Lady of the Rosary Cathedral
Arrowhead at 25th
265 West 25th Street
San Bernardino, California 92405

Dear Father Schmitz:

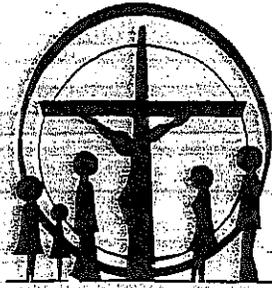
In the absence of Archbishop [REDACTED] I wish to acknowledge your letter of August 28 informing him of your vacation plans and where you can be reached during your home visit.

Be assured that I will communicate this information to the Archbishop when he returns to the office next week.

With kindest regards, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Rev. [REDACTED]
Chancellor



OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY CATHEDRAL

Arrowhead at 25th
265 West 25th Street
San Bernardino, California 92405
714 883-8991

October 4, 1984

Archbishop [REDACTED] O.S.B.
Archdiocesan Center
1229 Mt. Loretta Ave.
Dubuque, Iowa 52001

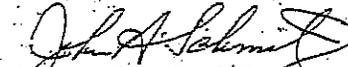
Dear Archbishop [REDACTED]

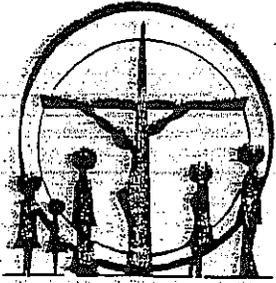
When I was visiting with you in September you asked that I make a formal written request to be reassigned to the Archdiocese of Dubuque.

I here with ask to return to the Archdiocese of Dubuque and be given an assignment in that Archdiocese.

Thank you for your kind consideration of this matter.

Respectfully yours


Rev. John A. Schmitz



OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY CATHEDRAL

Arrowhead at 25th
265 West 25th Street
San Bernardino, California 92405
714 883-8991

October 4, 1984

Archbishop [REDACTED] O.S.B.
Archdiocesan Center
1229 Mt. Loretta Ave.
Dubuque, Iowa 52001

Dear Archbishop [REDACTED]

When I was visiting with you in September you asked that I make a formal written request to be reassigned to the Archdiocese of Dubuque.

I here with ask to return to the Archdiocese of Dubuque and be given an assignment in that Archdiocese.

Thank you for your kind consideration of this matter.

Respectfully yours


Rev. John A. Schmitz

October 15, 1984

Most Rev. [REDACTED] D.D.
Bishop of San Bernardino
1450 North D Street
San Bernardino, California 92405

Dear Bishop Straling:

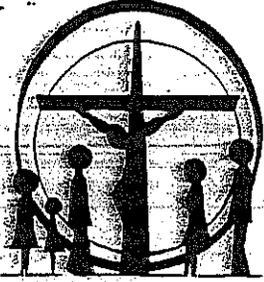
One of our priests, who has been working at Our Lady of the Rosary Cathedral, has visited and now written about returning to the Archdiocese. His name is Father ~~John~~ A. Schmitz.

I understand here that he was in a rather messy situation and that that incident is still fairly fresh in the minds of people. Before I proceed further with him, I would like your appraisal of his work in the Diocese of San Bernardino, and particularly your personal recommendation. I guess my advisors here would be very happy if he stayed where he was, but I do understand our obligations, and so I would appreciate whatever input you can give me.

With best wishes,

Praternally yours in Christ,

(Most Rev.) [REDACTED], O.S.B.
Archbishop of Dubuque



OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY CATHEDRAL

Arrowhead at 25th
265 West 25th Street
San Bernardino, California 92405
714 883-8991

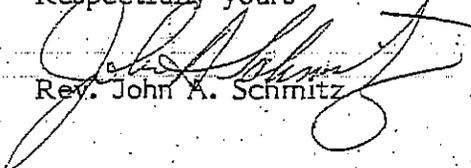
November 19, 1984

Archbishop [REDACTED] O.S.B.
Archdiocesan Center
1229 Mt. Loretta Ave.
Dubuque, Iowa 52001

Dear Archbishop [REDACTED]

When I visited you in September you asked me to write a letter formally asking to return to the Archdiocese of Dubuque. Upon my return to San Bernardino I wrote and sent the letter you asked for. Since I have not heard from you I presumed that my letter might possibly be lost in the mail. I will enclose a copy of that letter for your consideration.

Respectfully yours


Rev. John A. Schmitz

December 6, 1984

Rev. John A. Schmitz
Our Lady of the Rosary Cathedral
Arrowhead at 25th
265 West 25th Street
San Bernardino, California 92405

Dear Father John:

I wish to acknowledge your letter of November 19, inquiring about your return to the Archdiocese of Dubuque.

While I understand your desire to have the matter resolved as soon as possible, I must ask you to be patient for a while longer. It will take some time to work this out. Be assured that I will reply to your request as soon as I am able to do so.

With best wishes,

Fraternally yours in Christ,

(Most Rev.) [REDACTED] O.S.B.
Archbishop of Dubuque

December 7, 1984

Rev. [REDACTED]
Our Lady of the Rosary Cathedral
Arrowhead at 25th
265 West 25th Street
San Bernardino, California 92405

Dear Father [REDACTED]:

I am writing at the request of Archbishop [REDACTED] in a confidential matter relating to Father John Schmitz, who has been assisting at the Cathedral but now wishes to return to the Archdiocese of Dubuque. Archbishop [REDACTED] has also been in contact with Bishop [REDACTED] regarding Father Schmitz.

We will appreciate any information you can give us regarding Father Schmitz's conduct both in his ministry and his personal life while he has served at the Cathedral. In particular, we wish to know whether there were any moral problems that you are aware of in his relationships with others.

Please be assured that your comments will be kept strictly confidential.

Thanking you for any assistance you can give us in this important matter, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Rev. [REDACTED]
Chancellor

Schmitz-TC0175



OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY CATHEDRAL

Arrowhead at 25th
265 West 25th Street
San Bernardino, California 92405
714 883-8991

January 3, 1985

Reverend [REDACTED]
Chancery of the Archdiocese of Dubuque
1229 Mt. Loretta Avenue
Post Office Box 479
Dubuque, Iowa 52001

Dear Father [REDACTED]:

In answer to your letter of December 7, 1984 with regard to Father John Schmitz, I would first of all like to apologize for the delay in responding.

Father John was assigned to Our Lady of the Rosary Cathedral from St. George Church in Ontario with the reputation of being a good and conscientious priest who worked hard at all of his duties.

The first few months at Rosary Father John did encounter some difficulties with a few individuals, which due to Father's quick temper and manner of communication caused not only offense, but the gravity of such was reported to our Bishop. Bishop [REDACTED] and I both talked with Father John at this time. Since then, and this was many months ago, there have been no difficulties of this nature.

As concerns Father's personal life, he tends to stay to himself but does have friends among the clergy with whom he occasionally does go out. In regard to his moral conduct, I am not aware of anything that would suggest any real problems whether in the area of the parish or outside of it.

Father John has proven to be a good worker and is always very concerned with the spiritual welfare of our Parish.

Father would like to return to his Diocese as he feels he could be effective there and possibly more comfortable.

If I can be of further assistance, please feel free to ask me.

Respectfully yours in the Holy Spirit,

[REDACTED]
Reverend [REDACTED]
Pastor

Schmitz-TC0176

February 15, 1985

Most Rev. [REDACTED], D.D.
Bishop of San Bernardino
1450 North D Street
San Bernardino, California 92405

Dear Bishop [REDACTED]:

I am writing in regard to Father John A. Schmitz, currently stationed at the Cathedral in San Bernardino. Since our last correspondence, Father Schmitz has petitioned to return to the Archdiocese of Dubuque, and as yet I have not responded to his request. I asked our Chancellor, Father [REDACTED], to write for a recommendation of Father Schmitz as to his activities in San Bernardino, and this has been done.

In the meantime, I have fairly read the secret archives of the Archdiocese in which a large folder belongs to Father Schmitz. I have also consulted with retired Archbishop [REDACTED], Auxiliary Bishop [REDACTED], and prudent priests of the Archdiocese. The more I investigated, the more sickening the picture became. I must conclude that I could not in conscience accept Father Schmitz back into the Archdiocese, nor could I give him a parochial assignment.

The record shows that Father Schmitz, while in the Archdiocese, had perennial problems with women and has been the source of scandal in at least four assignments, the most recent in Greene, Iowa. It is only three years since he has been away from Greene, and after talking to the current pastor, I find that those poor people would be shocked and outraged if the announcement were made that Father Schmitz is in good standing and assigned to some parochial duty again. The record seems to indicate that he has acted brazenly and caused a great deal of scandal. In my two brief interviews with him during the past year, he manages to portray a sense of outrage at being typed in this manner. Nonetheless, the evidence is overwhelming. Whether guilty or not on all accounts, he certainly has left a trail of a terribly bad example.

I have not communicated my decision to him as yet but will do so shortly. I will suggest that he is free to look for a benevolent bishop or one who would let him work on a temporary basis but that his return to the Archdiocese would not be beneficial to him or to us.

I know that you indicated that since he was not a candidate for incardination in San Bernardino, he really ought to get moving. I certainly do not want to dump one of our problems in your lap, and I think your diocese has been eminently charitable in accepting him back into active ministry after his stint at some therapy. Whether he is rehabilitated or not, I cannot say. I hope to God that he is. If so, he would be better served to work elsewhere, where his past is not known.

I would appreciate what decision you will make in view of these disclosures, and I will wait to hear from you before I write to Father Schmitz. Naturally, if he could remain in San Bernardino, that would solve a problem for us, but it may not for you. At any rate, I once again thank you and the diocese for what you have done thus far.

With best wishes,

Fraternally yours in Christ,

(Most Rev.) [REDACTED], O.S.B.
Archbishop of Dubuque

West Air



City of San Bernardino

1450 North D St.

San Bernardino Cal. 92405



OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY CATHEDRAL

Arrowhead at 25th
265 West 25th Street
San Bernardino, California 92405
714 883-8991

March 5, 1985

Archbishop [REDACTED] O.S.B.
Archdiocesan Center
1229 Mt. Loretta Ave.
Dubuque, Iowa 52001

Dear Archbishop [REDACTED]

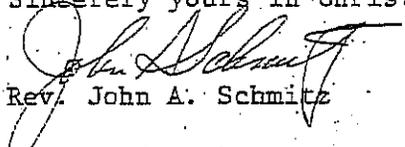
Father [REDACTED], the Rector of the Cathedral asked me yesterday if I had heard from you about your plans for me. They are concerned because the Personnel Board is now meeting to make assignments.

Bishop [REDACTED], Father [REDACTED] and the priests and people of the diocese of San Bernardino have been very good to me, therefore I feel I must be as helpful to them as possible.

If it would please your Excellency please write or contact Father [REDACTED], here at the Cathedral, or Father [REDACTED] Vicar General, at 1450 North "D" Street, San Bernardino, CA 92405, phone [REDACTED].

I thank you for your kind consideration of this matter, I remain,

Sincerely yours in Christ


Rev. John A. Schmitz

cc: Rev. [REDACTED]
Rev. [REDACTED]

Schmitz-TC0180

March 13, 1985

Rev. John A. Schmitz
Our Lady of the Rosary Cathedral
Arrowhead at 25th
265 West 25th Street
San Bernardino, California 92405

Dear Father John:

I received your letter and immediately called Father [REDACTED]. I was hoping to get back to you sooner, but I wanted to be sure that I had thoroughly familiarized myself with past events and also made discreet inquiries. It seems clear, Father John, that your returning to the Archdiocese for pastoral service here would be counterproductive both to you and to the people. Memories of past incidences are too vivid, and I am afraid we would simply stir up a great deal of uneasiness, which would be detrimental to effective pastoral ministry on your part. In saying this, I am not making any judgments about the past, for I was not here. Nonetheless, it seems prudent that you continue your priestly service outside the Archdiocese of Dubuque.

It is my understanding from Father [REDACTED] that assignments would be available to you in the San Bernardino Diocese but that incardination would not be possible because of your age. One item does need to be settled and that is your pension. I will look into the matter here to see where the situation stands with our St. Raphael Priest Fund Society. I will try to see if it is possible to arrange some way of reinstating you on the pension plan of the Archdiocese, even though you will be ministering in other dioceses. I am sure, for example, that something can be worked out with San Bernardino to help in this regard.

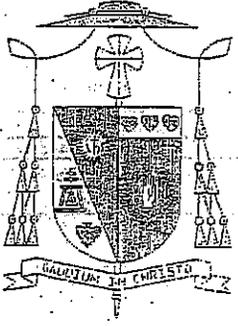
I wish I could tell you that I would welcome you back to the Archdiocese, but I think we have to face a realistic situation. Father [REDACTED] tells me that they are satisfied with your work in San Bernardino, and for this I am very grateful. God has given you an opportunity in that diocese for good service in the priesthood, and I would strongly urge you to continue your association there. Meanwhile, I will work on the problem of the pension.

With best wishes and prayers,

Faternally yours in Christ,

(Most Rev.) [REDACTED], O.S.B.
Archbishop of Dubuque

Schmitz-TC0181



Diocesan Pastoral Center

Diocese of San Bernardino

March 14, 1985

Most Reverend [REDACTED], OSB
Archbishop of Dubuque
P. O. Box 479
Dubuque, Iowa 52001

Dear Archbishop [REDACTED]:

This is to acknowledge your letter of February 15, 1985 regarding Father John Schmitz, currently stationed at the Our Lady of the Rosary Cathedral, here in the Diocese of San Bernardino.

I brought your letter to the attention of our Diocesan Priest Personnel Board and, having heard their counsel and advice, I submit our findings.

It is not our intention to consider Father John A. Schmitz for incardination into this diocese. Father John is welcome to serve here for a limited time, while either negotiating a return to his home diocese or with your help serve in some other diocese.

Prior to receiving your letter, I had several discussions with Father Schmitz. I brought to his attention some of the complaints that I had received from the Cathedral, as to the short and abrupt way he had treated some of the people. Recent reports indicate that he has made great improvement.

I have spoken to the Rector of the Cathedral and he is not opposed to having Father Schmitz stay on until some other assignment is found. In addition to the parish, Father Schmitz has taken an interest in "Bethlehem House", which is a facility being established for unwed mothers here in the diocese. I must say that, although Father Schmitz is not always as pastorally minded as I would like, I do think he has made great improvement. He has also gathered around him a group of people who greatly admire and support him.

Schmitz-TC0182

Archbishop [REDACTED], OSB

March 14, 1985

Page 2

I was sorry to hear that you are not considering his being allowed to return to the diocese in some capacity. I know that he will be very hurt by this. It is my privilege, as well as the priests of this diocese, to help a brother priest, and be assured that we will assist you and Father Schmitz in every way possible.

Yours in Christ,

[REDACTED]
Most Reverend [REDACTED]
Bishop, Diocese of San Bernardino
[REDACTED]

March 26, 1985

Most Rev. [REDACTED] D.D.
Bishop of San Bernardino
Diocesan Pastoral Center
1450 North "D" Street
San Bernardino, California 92405

Dear Bishop [REDACTED]:

Thank you for responding to my letter regarding Father John Schmitz. I have spoken recently by telephone with your Vicar General, who indicated to me that Father Schmitz would be permitted to remain and work in the San Bernardino Diocese. I am sure that Father Schmitz will be very grateful for your kindness toward him and your willingness to let him minister as a priest in an area where he is not known.

I did an exhaustive inquiry here, beginning with retired Archbishop [REDACTED], and not a single person recommended that Father Schmitz return to the diocese for active duty. There is just so much debris in all parts of the diocese after some of the incidences in which he was involved that his coming back in good standing would really thwart any opportunities he might have to show that he is reclaimed.

It is for this reason that I am very grateful to you for the opportunity you give him and to know that he has really done well and takes correction readily and, indeed, improves.

I may have misunderstood the telephone conversation with the Vicar General, but it was my impression that he indicated that Father would be able to continue to work in your diocese over a longer period of time, as long as he understood that he would never be incardinated and never be a pastor. I indicated this in my letter to him following that conversation but as yet have not had a response from Father Schmitz. If he has only a limited time in San Bernardino, I will do my best to work with him from a distance to find another Ordinary that would be as kind and supportive of him as you are. I must say, however:

Schmitz-TC0184

Most Rev. [REDACTED] D.D.

Page 2

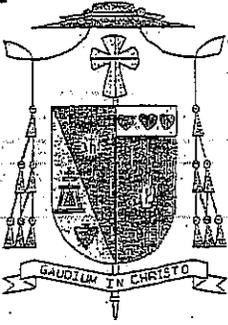
March 26, 1985

that there is no opportunity for him to return to the Archdiocese of Dubuque as an active priest. I wish that I could say differently, but all prudent advisors here indicate that he would never have a chance to operate effectively because of the fact that his past is so well known.

Thank you again, and may Easter be especially joyous for you.

Fraternallly yours in Christ,

(Most Rev.) [REDACTED] O.S.B.
Archibishop of Dubuque



Diocesan Pastoral Center

Diocese of San Bernardino

April 24, 1985

Most Reverend [REDACTED], O.S.B.
Archbishop of Dubuque
Post Office Box 479
Dubuque, Iowa 52001

Dear Archbishop [REDACTED]:

This is to inform you that certain circumstances have developed here in the diocese, which could have lead to some serious problems, for Father John Schmitz. I have asked him to leave the diocese by the end of this month.

Although, I believe we prevented any serious situation from developing, I was prompted to take this action in light of his former problems. It is my understanding that his mother is seriously ill at this time, and he is presently visiting her. He has informed me that he will be going to Jemez Springs sometime in the near future.

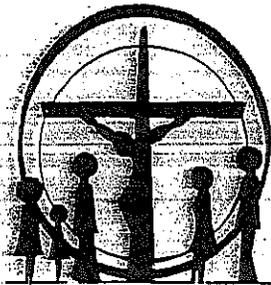
I believe that we gave John a good chance to prove himself here in this diocese, and I am sorry that things did not work out for him.

With prayers and best wishes, I am

Yours in Christ,

[REDACTED]
Most Reverend [REDACTED]
Bishop, Diocese of San Bernardino

Schmitz-TC0186



OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY CATHEDRAL

Arrowhead at 25th
265 West 25th Street
San Bernardino, California 92405
714 883-8991

May 1, 1985

Archbishop [REDACTED] O.S.B.
Archdiocesan Center
1229 Mt. Loretta Ave
Dubuque, Iowa 52001

Dear Archbishop [REDACTED]:

When I returned to San Bernardino last Saturday April 27, Fr [REDACTED] told me that I would be through here on May 1. He asked me to stay until Sunday May 5 because the parish is planning some kind of reception.

I stopped at Jemez Springs since everything there was full I could not stay there. They are working with me in seeking a return to ministry as a priest. They are trying to get some statement from Bishop [REDACTED] and most likely will be in contact with you also.

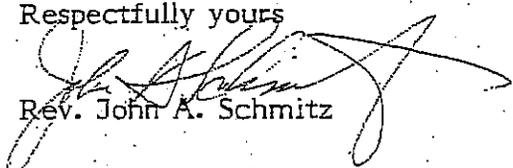
I will be returning to Iowa and staying at either my mothers home [REDACTED]
Waterloo, Ia 50703
[REDACTED]

or St. Henry's Parish
221 W. Olive St
Marshalltown, Ia

I will be leaving Monday May 6. It will probably take 3-4 days to make the trip.

Thank you for your kindness in our recent visit. I remain

Respectfully yours


Rev. John A. Schmitz

May 2, 1985

Most Rev. [REDACTED], D.D.
Bishop of San Bernardino
1450 North "D" Street
San Bernardino, California 92405

Dear Bishop [REDACTED]:

I received your letter of April 24, 1985, after visiting a few days previously with Father John Schmitz. He told me of his mother's serious illness.

He also tried to explain to me that he was again in hot water. It was difficult to follow his story, because he always seems to feel that he is being misunderstood, but I gather it indeed is the same old problem that manifested itself repeatedly here. He was not definite about what you had indicated regarding leaving the diocese, but I surmised that that indeed had been your decision.

He will go to Jemez Springs to consult with the Paraclete Fathers and ask them to assist him in finding some other place. He asked if he could stay in this diocese, at least in residence somewhere while his mother was ill. It was very difficult for me to tell him no, but I think, under the circumstances, I had no alternative. In the course of our long conversation, I suggested he think of laicization. He claims he loves the priesthood, but has a peculiar way of expressing that love.

I do thank you for the chance you gave him in San Bernardino. It was most pastoral and understanding on your part. I, too, am sorry that it didn't work out.

With best wishes,

Fraternally yours in Christ,

(Most Rev.) [REDACTED], O.S.B.
Archbishop of Dubuque

Schmitz-TC0188



archdiocese dubuque

Office of the Archbishop

1229 Mt. Loretta • P.O. Box 479 • Dubuque, Iowa 52004-0479 • Phone (319) 556-2580

June 27, 1985

Rev. John Schmitz

[Redacted]
Waterloo, Iowa 50703

Dear Father John:

Father [Redacted] indicated that you would be staying at this address with your mother. I hope that she is recovering well. Please tell her she has my prayers.

It grieves me to write this letter, but it must be done for purposes of the record. Father [Redacted] did tell you that you do not possess the faculties of the Archdiocese of Dubuque and therefore are not in good standing as far as active pastoral work is concerned. You may say Mass privately in your mother's home, but you cannot assist at any parishes or hear confessions.

I certainly do want to talk to you in more detail again, but I must tell you to start thinking seriously about what your future should be. It does not seem possible that you will be able to get a letter of recommendation either from here or from San Bernardino for an assignment in some other diocese. Unfortunately, Father John, I think we must face the fact that you have run out of options in this regard.

I do seriously suggest that you think about the possibility of laicization so that you might be free to pursue a useful life in the world. You have many talents that have been amply demonstrated in the past which should help you secure a position. If you should determine to do this, I would be happy to facilitate the procedures for you with the Holy See.

Let us pray together for guidance of the Holy Spirit. I want to do the best for you, but I also need your honest cooperation and basic realism to face the facts as they now exist and to see what the future holds. I do not think that you have been realistic either with yourself or with me. I think it is time that we came to a firm understanding.

Let us pray for each other.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

[Redacted Signature]

(Most Rev.) [Redacted] O.S.B. Δ
Archbishop of Dubuque 0

Schmitz-TC0189

[REDACTED]
Waterloo, Iowa 50703

July 6, 1985

Most Rev. [REDACTED], O.S.B.
Archbishop of Dubuque,
1229 Mt. Loretta
Dubuque, Iowa 52001

Dear Archbishop [REDACTED]:

I am in receipt of your letter of June 27.

I want to thank you for your prayers and expressed concern for my mother. She is doing much better than was expected, but the long term prognosis is that she will never get too much better than she is now.

Fr. [REDACTED] did inform me of my status in the diocese. I am very grateful that you are allowing me the privilege of offering the Mass daily. This is also a great blessing for my mother who before her illness was a daily attendant at mass.

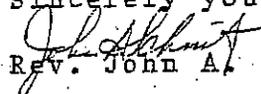
I appreciate you reminding me of the difficult position I am in and the problem I have especially if I would seek to return to active ministry. Although caring for mother and the house takes much time I still have a lot of time for prayer, study, reflection and journaling.

I thank you for the suggestion of the possibility of pursuing life in the world outside the priesthood. I do not feel it wise to make a decision of such magnitude at the present moment. Working through the process of realistically assessing and dealing with the problems of the past would seem to be a process logically antecedent to a decision of change of lifestyle or vocation.

I shall continue to pursue study, evaluation and prayer as occasions present themselves in order to work through the issues of my personal growth program.

I recognize the possibility of self deception, rationalization and projections which can surface in my life as an unacceptable defense mechanism. I recognize further that the rehabilitation process may be long term but I am committed to pursue it one day at a time.

Sincerely yours in Christ


Rev. John A. Schmitz

P.S. Thank you for extending coverage under the Diocesan Blue Cross Blue Shield insurance program.

Schmitz-TC0190

July 11, 1985

Rev. John A. Schmitz
[REDACTED]

Waterloo, Iowa 50703

Dear Father John:

I received your July 6th letter. Thank you for sharing your thoughts with me. I am pleased and grateful to God that you are realistically assessing your situation and looking into your own life and spiritual growth. I just want you to know that you have my abundant prayers for this. It will not be easy, of course, but at the same time God will give you all the graces necessary to sustain you and to help you understand His Divine Will.

May God be with you.

Faternally yours in Christ,

(Most Rev.) [REDACTED], O.S.B.
Archbishop of Dubuque

John A. Schmitz
[REDACTED]
Waterloo, Iowa 50703
[REDACTED]

March 3, 1986

Archbishop [REDACTED] O.S.B.
Archdiocesan Center
1229 Mt. Loretta Ave.
P.O. Box 479
Dubuque, Iowa 52004-0479

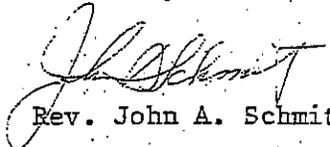
Dear Archbishop [REDACTED]:

When I last met with you you asked me to let you know how much support I would need from you. I have not forgotten the promise I made to write and let you know my needs. I have had many internal struggles with this matter which have not all been resolved. However since it is your expressed wish that Bishop [REDACTED] not accept me for work in his diocese, I find it necessary to seek support. As close as I can figure I will need at least [REDACTED] a month to meet my obligations.

Presently I am continuing to work my program of recovery as well as working with several other priests. I am in the process of forming a SAA support here in Waterloo.

During this season of Lent I am offering my prayers and fasting to God for help in knowing his will, for the grace to be open to His will, to carry His will out in my life. You are remembered in a very special way too.

Sincerely Yours in Christ


Rev. John A. Schmitz

John A. Schmitz

Waterloo Iowa 50703

March 3, 1986

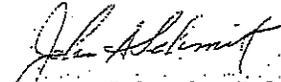
Archbishop [REDACTED], O.S.B.
Archdiocesan Center
1229 Mt. Loretta
P.O. Box 479
Dubuque, Ia 52004-0479

Dear Archbishop [REDACTED]:

I am sending this note to let you know that I am now residing at the above address. As you may know I have been staying with my brother Leo. My presence there began to place some stress on the family. I discussed this with Msgr. [REDACTED] and he graciously offered me the opportunity to live in the house owned by St. Joseph's Parish.

I am very grateful for your kindness of the past, and I will continue to pray for you by name.

Sincerely yours,



Rev. John A. Schmitz

March 27, 1986

Rev. John A. Schmitz
[REDACTED]
Waterloo, Iowa 50703

Dear Father John:

I received your letter of March 3rd with the request for some financial support. I was not able to respond immediately because of the pressure of work. I also would like to consult with my cabinet before coming to some decision.

I don't know whether or not the figure of [REDACTED] can be met. In order for me to present your request to the cabinet, I would have to have more particular information about this figure and what it entails. Also, it would be difficult for me to make an assignment of a monthly subsidy to you for support which is open-ended and indefinite. As you know, this could go on for many years.

I would be particularly interested in knowing what you plan to do on a long-range basis by way of supporting yourself in view of the admittedly difficult, but unfortunately realistic, situation that both of us find ourselves in. As I indicated, the current climate of litigation in the United States precludes my granting you an assignment or recommending you. I know this is very difficult for you, but it is the bitter truth.

I think we should talk again in a little more detail before I can meet with the cabinet. I am setting aside Friday, April 4, at ten o'clock in the morning. If you can make this, you need not reply. If you can't, I would appreciate knowing so we can arrange a different time.

I thank you for your prayers, and I am particularly happy that you indicated in your letter that you were using the Lenten season for extra prayer and fasting. I am sure that the Lord will guide you and help you. I wish you the blessings of the Easter season. I shall pray with you that the Lord may guide both you and me to a resolution of your situation.

Fraternally yours in Christ,

(Most Rev.) [REDACTED], O.S.B.
Archbishop of Dubuque

Schmitz-TC0194

St. Joseph's Church

320 Mulberry Street

Telephone 234-4439

Watsila, Iowa 50703

April 5, 1986

His Excellency
The Most Reverend [REDACTED], O.S.B.
Archbishop of Dubuque
Archdiocesan Center
1229 Mt. Loretta
Dubuque, Iowa 52001

Dear Archbishop [REDACTED],

I have within the hour had a conversation with Father John Schmitz, during which he remarked that a subject which he and I had discussed the day before was brought up in your visit with him. Namely, the possibility of work in a food for poor program. I realize now that it was a subject I should have previously discussed with you.

I hasten to assure you that my thought was that he would do some gardening for the poor on land far removed geographically from the parish although it is owned by the parish, and secondly that his remuneration would be made out of my priestly salary which I have customarily not accepted from the parish since I have been receiving compensation from Social Security. This was mentioned only as a possibility to Father because I was aware that he should not be employed by the parish or on the parish payroll.

I regret my failure to discuss this situation with you beforehand, and I sincerely ask your pardon.

Sincerely in Christ,
[REDACTED]

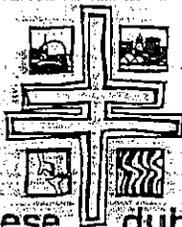
MEMO

TO: Father [REDACTED]
FROM: Archbishop [REDACTED]
DATE: April 7, 1986

At a meeting with Father John Schmitz, which Bishop [REDACTED] attended, I agreed to temporarily help him support himself as he seeks to work out his situation. The agreement is: [REDACTED] a month for the next four months, beginning with this month of April. At the end of that period, we will make an assessment as to what is to be done in the future. I suspect that we will have to continue to support him for some time, but I made it very plain that this cannot be open-ended.

Would you please alert Sister [REDACTED] to make a check for [REDACTED] in Father's name, which I will send along with a letter to him. These stipends should be debited to the same account we use for Father [REDACTED].

Archbishop [REDACTED]



archdiocese dubuque

Office of the Archbishop

1229 Mt. Loretta • P.O. Box 479 • Dubuque, Iowa 52004-0479 • Phone (319) 556-2580

April 7, 1986

Rev. John A. Schmitz

[REDACTED]
Waterloo, Iowa 50703

Dear Father John:

I am confirming our conversation of last Friday, with Bishop [REDACTED] present. I appreciate your outlining what you have been doing and what plans you have in the immediate future relative to your own rehabilitation. As I indicated, the Archdiocese certainly would like to assist you in supporting yourself, but at the same time, I once more must state that this cannot be open-ended and that reinstatement to active service in the Archdiocese, in view of present circumstances, is somewhat remote. I was pleased to hear you say that you are trying to look ahead and putting the past aside. I think this is healthy, and I encourage you to do this. I once more must say, however, that whatever decisions I have to make are based on my responsibility for the Archdiocese and the Church. These responsibilities always exist in a very concrete, practical situation. At present, the heavy accent on litigation for all sorts of reasons in the United States makes my decisions and your position extremely difficult.

We agreed that the Archdiocese would provide you a stipend for the next four months of [REDACTED] a month to assist you in maintaining yourself. The stipend is given as a means of assisting you and is not construed as a salary for pastoral services. At the end of four months, you will come to see me and Bishop [REDACTED] to report on your progress. We will then make a decision about future assistance.

I shall be praying for you that the Lord would continue to guide you and strengthen you in your resolve.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

[REDACTED]

(Most Rev.) [REDACTED], O.S.B.
Archbishop of Dubuque

Schmitz-TC0197

April 15, 1986

Rev. Msgr. [REDACTED]
St. Joseph's Church
320 Mulberry Street
Waterloo, Iowa 50703

Dear Monsignor Brady:

Thank you for your letter of April 5th. I appreciate your explanation of the work you think Father Schmitz might do, and it corresponds to what he told me as well. Please be sure that I am not concerned about your giving him an opportunity for work, and in fact I am very grateful to you that he will have something to do and perhaps a modest income.

Father Schmitz tells me that you have been talking with him, and I am deeply grateful to you for your counseling with him. I also pray that the Lord may continue to help him understand the full dimensions of his priesthood and of his own personal life. I have to be unduly careful and perhaps come across as rigid and uncompromising with him. The current state of litigation in the United States regarding priests is such that I cannot be magnanimous or even afford him another opportunity. I know that this hurts him, but I am not sure that he understands that it is his responsibility for being in the situation he is. He has to accept responsibility for the past, as painful as that might be.

We did make an agreement with him to support him for four months at [REDACTED] a month. He is to report to me and Bishop [REDACTED] at that time, and we will see where to go from there. Obviously, supporting him cannot be an open-ended affair, since it could go on for an extremely long time. He will have to face the possibility of having to support himself and perhaps not in the active ministry.

With best wishes and prayers,

Faternally yours in Christ,

(Most Rev.) [REDACTED], O.S.B.
Archbishop of Dubuque

Schmitz-TC0198

St. Joseph's Church

320 Mulberry Street

Telephone 234-4439

Waterloo, Iowa 50703

April 30, 1986

His Excellency
The Most Reverend [REDACTED], O.S.B.
Archbishop of Dubuque
Archdiocesan Center
1229 Mt. Loretta
Dubuque, Iowa 52001

Dear Archbishop [REDACTED],

Thank you for your letter of April 15, 1986, concerning Father John Schmitz and my giving him an opportunity to work in the food for the poor program. I have invited him to put in a garden (large) on parish property about eight miles from here. His brother Leo is going to help him. The fact that it is a worthwhile project and involves a lot of exercise should benefit him. Since he is receiving financial assistance now I propose simply to help him cover the additional expense for the present. No parish funds will be utilized.

I hope this meets with your approval.

Sincerely in Christ,
[REDACTED]

Schmitz-TC0199

MEMO

TO: Father [REDACTED]
FROM: Archbishop [REDACTED]
DATE: July 17, 1986

I had a session with Father John Schmitz in which he reported to me his activities for the past three months. At the end of the conversation, I agreed to extend our support for him in the same amount for another three months.

Archbishop [REDACTED]

Rev. John Schmitz
[REDACTED]
Waterloo, Iowa 50703

December 18, 1986

Archbishop [REDACTED] O.S.B.
P.O. Box 479
Dubuque, Iowa 52004-0479

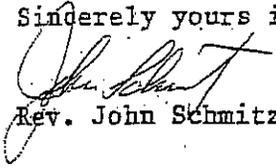
Dear Archbishop [REDACTED]

May the Peace of the Christ Child be with you!

I want you to know that my desire for this season is that you experience all the peace and joy of this Christmas Season, you are most deserving of the Blessings of the New Born Savior. I am beginning to realize that the angel's greeting to the shepherds in the hill country, "Peace on Earth Good Will to Man" can really be ours if we remove all the junk that clutters our lives. It is from the experience of this peace and serenity that I extend to you the wishes of a Blessed and Peaceful Christmas, and the Blessings of a very Happy New Year.

I want to thank you for the time you set aside from your busy schedule to meet with me. I was very pleased with our meeting. I realize I have a number of things I still have to let other people own and the sooner I can do that the better I will be. I want to thank you for your patience and understanding. I have been told by others I have come a long way this past year and I am aware I have a lot of work to do to reach the goals I have set for myself. I am sure I do not fully comprehend the awesomeness of your problems as bishop of this diocese, the task must seem overwhelming at times. I want you to know that I support you in your efforts. Please be assured you are in my prayers every day.

Sincerely yours in Christ


Rev. John Schmitz

Memo: To Archbishop [REDACTED]
Date: Jan. 7, 87
From: B. [REDACTED]
Re: Fr. John Schmitz

Father Schmitz called to indicate that he did not receive a check of [REDACTED] in Jan. covering Dec.

My recall of the meeting that the three of had in the Archbishop's office was that he would receive a monthly check for limited period of time, possibly 6 months. This amount was to enable him to meet his monthly obligations etc., but was not to go on indefinitely.

I advised that nothing could be done until Your Excellency returned and that I would bring it to your attention.

*Check should contain
each month total
revised. [REDACTED]*

April 10, 1987

Rev. John A. Schmitz

Waterloo, Iowa 50703

Dear Father John:

This letter is a follow-up to our conversation in my office several days ago. I appreciate the things you shared with me and pray that God may continue to strengthen you and inspire you as you seek deeper insights into the mystery of your own being, God's plan for your life, and how you can help others. I know it is difficult for you not to be able to be returned to the active ministry, at least at this time; but as we discussed, God's ways are often inscrutable and certainly your patient understanding and acceptance can yield much blessing.

You indicated that the [redacted] a month we have been sending you was supplemented from the late Monsignor [redacted]'s personal funds as a gift to you. You said it was difficult for you to exist now that Monsignor [redacted]'s help is not present. To help you out, I will direct Father [redacted] to send you the amount of money that a parish priest receives each month according to our Archdiocesan scale. This money is sent to you in fraternal support and not as a remuneration for services to the Archdiocese since you are not on active duty.

Also, as I communicated to you verbally, I grant you the faculties to hear confessions of fellow priests only. At this time I am not able to restore your faculties to hear confessions of the faithful.

May the coming feast of Easter be a joyous one for you.

With best wishes,

Faternally yours in Christ,

(Most Rev.) [redacted], O.S.B.
Archbishop of Dubuque

Schmitz-TC0203

MEMO

TO: Father [REDACTED]
FROM: Archbishop [REDACTED]
DATE: April 10, 1987

Father John Schmitz came to see me the other day. He indicated that Monsignor [REDACTED] had been giving him money to supplement the [REDACTED] a month we have been sending to him and that he now finds it impossible to make ends meet. It seems to me, whether we like it or not, that we have some obligation to help him. I think it would be best to give him the same amount of money a priest would receive at the parish. Would you please see me to make sure we agree on what to do and how to support him.

Archbishop [REDACTED]

JOHN A. SCHMITZ

Waterloo, Iowa 50703

August 29, 1987

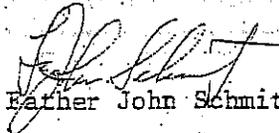
Archbishop [REDACTED], O.S.B.
Archdiocesan Center
1229 Mt. Loretta Dr.
Dubuque, Iowa 52001

Dear Archbishop [REDACTED],

I want to let you know that during the past week I have taken a series of tests at St. Francis Hospital. Yesterday the Doctor told me that I had an [REDACTED]. He wanted to do more tests, but I suggested that it might be better for me to go to Mayo Clinic since I have have been treated a number of years ago for [REDACTED] at the clinic. The doctor readily agreed with me and arranged an appointment Monday, August 31 with the [REDACTED]. I will most likely know by the end of the week what further action if any will need to be taken.

I know that any disease of [REDACTED] is serious but I really feel God is with me and that He is closest to us when we hurt the most. I trust that all will work out well.

Sincerely yours in Christ


Father John Schmitz

St. Joseph's Church

313 E. CENTRAL ST.
P. O. BOX 126
RAYMOND, IOWA 50667

Waterloo Phone
(319) 233-5395

Jesup Phone
(319) 827-6238

September 3, 1987

The Most Rev. [REDACTED], O.S.B.
The Archbishop's Office
1229 Mt. Loretta
Dubuque, Iowa, 52001

Dear Archbishop [REDACTED]:

This morning before Mass, [REDACTED], the brother of
Father John Schmitz of Waterloo, informed me that Father
Schmitz had [REDACTED] yesterday, September 2, at [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] in Rochester, Minnesota.

The surgery was to [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]. The Doctor told the family that the surgery
was successful and the followup care was decided as yet. When
Jim left Rochester to return to Raymond last evening, Father
John was resting comfortably.

I have, also, informed Bishop [REDACTED].

Last Sunday the good people of Raymond held a parish
reception to honor me. It was just a parish event, but very
nice. They are very pleased and proud of this honor for me,
the laity still have a high esteem for the title of Monsignor.
Likewise, I have been swamped with congratulatory letters
from Cedar Rapids and other parishes I have served. It has
added a great significance to the meaning of the honor.
Again, thank you for your many kindnesses to me.

Fraternally in Christ,

[REDACTED]
Rev. Msgr. [REDACTED]
Dean of Waterloo Deanery

August 18, 1988

Rev. [REDACTED]
Pastor
St. Joseph Church
320 Mulberry Street
Waterloo, Iowa 50703

Dear Father [REDACTED]:

Father John Schmitz was in to see me and gave me the breakdown of expenses for the parish in keeping the house he is presently occupying. He indicated that the parish would keep the house and let him live in it if the expenses were taken care of.

I am willing to do this and have instructed Father [REDACTED] to send you a check each month. The breakdown of expenses amounts to [REDACTED] for the year. Father Schmitz also has a phone bill he has been paying of some [REDACTED] to [REDACTED] per month. I have included that in the total figure to bring it to [REDACTED] for the year. The monthly check from the Chancery will thus be [REDACTED].

I appreciate this arrangement for Father Schmitz. May the Lord continue to bless all your pastoral efforts.

Faternally yours in Christ,

(Most Rev.) [REDACTED], O.S.B.
Archbishop of Dubuque

P.S. This agreement is retroactive to July 1, 1988.

cc: Rev. John Schmitz

Schmitz-TC0207

St. Joseph's Church
320 Mulberry Street
Telephone 234-4430
Waterloo, Iowa 50703

August 23, 1988

His Excellency
The Most Reverend [REDACTED], O.S.B.
Archbishop of Dubuque
Archdiocesan Center
PO Box 479
Dubuque, Iowa 52001

Dear Archbishop [REDACTED],

Thank you for your letter of August 18, 1988, concerning
Father John Schmitz.

It is a joy for St. Joseph's Parish to enter this agreement
with you regarding the use of the property at [REDACTED], Waterloo,
and to be of service to you and the specialized work that the Archdiocese
is interested in.

I do believe it is an even greater joy to see the happiness
and peace in the eyes and expressions of Father John Schmitz over the
realization that he can be once again of service to the Archdiocese and
that you are interested in his work and encouraging him.

I thank your Excellency for this further opportunity to be
of service to you, and I praise you for your decision.

Your servant in Christ,

Jr.
Rev. [REDACTED]

Schmitz-TC0208

September 25, 1988

Archbishop [REDACTED]
Archbishop of Dubuque
1129 Mt. Loretta
Dubuque, Iowa 52001

Dear Archbishop [REDACTED]:

It was with much relief that I read the article in the March 13, Des Moines Register with the steps you are formulating to handle abuse charges against your priests.

I'm assuming the statement that you are not aware of any cases of children abused by Iowa priests, means that you're not aware of current cases.

I'm one of the victims from the past, having been raped by a priest at age twelve in the basement of Sacred Heart School. I have been told on occasions when I openly met with archdiocesan officials that the information was in the archives of the Church. But over the 30 years that have passed I still feel a responsibility to the others that that priest may have abused or may still be abusing. He was sent to another parish at the time and continues to serve as one of your archdiocesan priests. It has taken a long time to work through forgiveness. The first step was actually forgiveness of myself, (as a 12 year old no one said I wasn't to blame). Then finally forgiveness came towards the priest, (we both can reach a place in heaven, but my humor helps me to say let it please be at arms distance). Also, forgiveness of my parents had to come realizing they said nothing to me or to the church, but knowing now that they were presented with this at a time in history when others did not talk against their church. The forgiveness that hasn't come has been towards my church. I've offered to be part of the solution and not part of the continual denial of the problem. We the church need to see your forgiveness of your priests' mistakes and your desire to help them and their victims. My faith and love for God is strong and continues to grow. I remain a member of the Catholic Church in hopes that I may one day see a true spirit of love come through in behalf of both the abuse and the abuser. Do keep up your sincere efforts to help both.

Sincerely,
[REDACTED]

Schmitz-TC0209

September 25, 1988

Archbishop [REDACTED]
1129 Mt. Loretta
Dubuque, Iowa 52001

Dear Archbishop [REDACTED]:

My name is [REDACTED] and the purpose of this letter is twofold: to inform; and to express my feelings about which I am writing. I simply ask that you read this letter to completion.

My wife, [REDACTED], and I have been married for 20 years. The feelings that I want to express have been a part of me for nineteen years and have been [REDACTED]'s for thirty years. Thirty years is a long time. Let me tell you that these feelings were developed when [REDACTED] was twelve years old.

When [REDACTED] was twelve years old she was raped in the basement of Sacred Heart school in Dubuque at the hands of a priest of the archdiocese. My wife is a rape victim and is a victim of the church. I say that she is a "victim" of the church because of the manner in which the institutional church performed its duties.

Please keep in mind that I am talking about a twelve year old child. She was sexually abused by a priest. Six months elapsed before [REDACTED] vocalized this to an adult. Unfortunately, she chose to tell another priest. This was done within the confines of the confessional. She was immediately taken to the home of the archbishop. Her parents were not called nor informed of this until this second priest returned her to her home.

The parish pastor encouraged her parents not to say anything because of the damage that could be done. This was 1958. John F. Kennedy had just recently announced his intentions to run for President of the United States. The pastor of Sacred Heart told her parents that if news of a priest having raped a child were to leak it could possibly be printed in many of the papers across the country. This he felt could be detrimental in JFK's run for the presidency. Tremendous compassion for the victim.

The abuser was simply re-assigned to another parish. Did he ever receive treatment for his illness? How many children has he victimized? He is still one of your priest's of the diocese today.

Approximately five years ago his picture appeared in the Witness as he was celebrating his 25th anniversary in

Schmitz-TC0210

the priesthood. He should have been celebrating his 25th year in prison. My wife opened the Witness and saw her violator again. She was absolutely devastated. [REDACTED] was not aware that this rapist was still a priest.

April 1988 there was an article printed in the Telegraph Herald wherein you stated that this diocese is going to implement a program for priests. It also stated that this diocese has been so fortunate in the past that there have been no cases where children have been victimized by priests. Your response in the paper had to do with a particular case in Florida where at least one priest was being charged with rape.

You have not done your homework or you would have known that children in this diocese have been victimized. We were told that this information is available in the "archives" of the diocese. We were not told through idol gossip, but rather from the former second in command of the diocese.

I have no way of knowing how much training you have had in dealing with victims of rape. Nor do I know if you are able to relate to the pain and suffering that goes along with this horrendous act. The memory never dies and the pain? Well, if the pain dies, it dies a slow death over a period of many years. [REDACTED]'s pain has not died and it is now thirty years later.

She has sought psychological help and participates in a support group for "Victims of Childhood Sexual Abuse." She lives this memory everyday and I try as her husband to share this with her. I am one of her supporters that love her and listen to her. To get help from the institutional church is virtually impossible. The organization seemingly doesn't care. Several priests have been approached over the years and quite frankly they believe that if enough prayers are said that the problem would go away. They ask, "Why are you bringing this up now?" "Just put it behind you and forget about it." Only ignorant minds would make such comments to a victim. She needs to grieve the loss of a normal childhood as any other loss is grieved.

Sometimes I would like to submit a bill to the church. However, how does one place a price tag on the pain and suffering that a victim experiences? It is easy to list the amount associated with loss of work and the amount paid to psychologists.

Where is the justice of Jesus in all of this? We have never experienced justice in regard to this from the church. The church doesn't seem concerned. On a recent Sunday Jesus stated in Mark's gospel to Peter, "Get away from me you Satan. Your thoughts come not from God, but from man!" Truly a just anger. I believe that a just anger is

righteous; not that we are right and someone else is wrong, but rather that these injustices must be righted. If the church would have taken this young girl and figuratively taken her into their arms with compassion and emphasized the wrong done to her the healing would have been set into action over a quarter of a century ago. The church did not and still does not seem to be willing to do so.

Sincerely,

A large, solid black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area of the letter.

Duplicate of [redacted]

Archdiocese of Dubuque
1129 Mt. Justice
Dubuque, Iowa
52001



Sept. 25, 1988

Archbishop [REDACTED]
Archdiocese of Dubuque
Dubuque, Iowa 52001

Dear Archbishop [REDACTED]:

As members of a Marriage Encounter support group with [REDACTED] and [REDACTED], we have shared the suffering, frustration, and concern over the situation involving [REDACTED]'s rape at age twelve by a priest of the Archdiocese of Dubuque.

Through this letter we wish to express to you our continuing support of [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] and the hope and prayer that efforts are underway to assist both the victims and any priests who are sexual abusers in this diocese.

We urge you to pursue the development of a policy and a program of prevention as you alluded to in an earlier newspaper article so that incidents such as this will be avoided. We appreciate your attention to this matter.

Respectfully submitted,

[REDACTED]



archdiocese dubuque

Office of the Archbishop

1229 Mt. Loretta • P.O. Box 479 • Dubuque, Iowa 52004-0479 • Phone (319) 556-2580

October 27, 1988

Mr. and Mrs. [REDACTED]

Dubuque, Iowa 52001

Dear Mr. and Mrs. [REDACTED]:

Your recent letter saddened me greatly. I pray that the Lord's healing power may be your support and source of peace and joy in a faith you have maintained and professed throughout your lives. I have offered Holy Mass for this intention and for all your intentions.

To address your concerns for priests who need or may need help is not easy without breaking a confidentiality that is the right of every person in the Church. In this regard, newspaper articles and quotations do not always (and in fact almost never) portray a complete picture.

Rarely do quotations attributed to me match exactly what I said. This is understandable since any reporter must rely on notes and his or her perception of what was said. I am not aware that tape recorders are used when I am interviewed, and I would not agree to such a device unless I could be sure that the entire interview were aired with no editorial selection.

I do not recall the exact context of the quote attributed to me, but I think you are correct in saying that it must have been in response to a situation elsewhere. I was speaking in terms of the four years I have been the Archbishop of Dubuque.

The bishops of the United States have had many meetings and directives in regard to pedophilia and other sexual problems that may afflict some priests. I cannot speak for all the dioceses of the country, but from my contacts with other bishops I can say that most dioceses do have programs to deal with such situations and indeed programs to prevent such unfortunate occurrences.

I can share with you the programs and cautions we maintain in the Archdiocese of Dubuque.

1. Candidates for the priesthood are thoroughly screened prior to entering the seminary at the theological level and are also appraised and tested in their college years. The screening consists in psychological examinations and, when indicated, psychiatric interviews. During

Schmitz-TC0222

Mr. and Mrs. [REDACTED]

Page 2

October 27, 1988

their seminary years, candidates have both a counselor and spiritual director. Their progress is monitored by our Director of Vocations and a Seminary Board composed of priests with experience and varied backgrounds here in the Archdiocese. Seminaries require each candidate to write out his own appraisal of his academic, spiritual and psychological progress each year. These are added to reports of his counselor and spiritual director (with the approval of the candidate) as well as the faculty who had him in class. Finally, the Rector himself scrutinizes the findings, has the candidate read the reports and sign off on them as an indication that he has seen and discussed his appraisal. These are sent to me and shared with the Director of Vocations and the Seminary Board.

The Seminary Board conducts in-depth personal interviews with candidates before we accept them as theological students and again at the end of the second year of theology. Promotion to the Diaconate and Priesthood comes only when the seminary and our Seminary Board recommends. I myself interview candidates personally as they begin their theological studies and again before the Diaconate. I also encourage correspondence with them and visit them at the seminaries when travel permits.

2. During the course of seminary training, the candidate must put in at least a summer at some parish for pastoral experience and to acquaint himself with the life and responsibilities of a diocesan priest. Pastors are carefully chosen for this and given training by seminaries and through contact with the our Seminary Board. In some instances, either at our request or that of the candidate, a year off is recommended (usually between the second and third year of theology) so that the candidate can give his vocation and its full dimensions, especially celibacy, further consideration. Often this year is spent at a parish, living in a rectory. The pastor counsels and monitors the candidate's progress and reports to the Director of Vocations and the Seminary Board. These reports are passed on to me.

3. After ordination, the Archdiocesan Personnel Board, composed of priests elected by their fellow priests to advise me, tries to assign the newly-ordained to a parish where his first experience in full priestly ministry will be a good one and help to set him on the road to a long and fruitful service.

4. Programs for priests of all ages and experience for continual intellectual, spiritual and psychological growth are provided in the Archdiocese through a special committee on priestly formation which reports to me. For older priests needing some time to assess their ministry and to recharge themselves spiritually and pastorally, we have an excellent program of sabbatical leave, usually three months. During this time, a priest enrolls in programs given in various parts of this country and in Rome.

5. Of greater significance to your letter and inquiry are support groups of priests throughout the Archdiocese. The "Jesus Caritas" groups, which abound throughout the country and consist of some six or so priests who meet monthly under a set program of prayer and sharing, have been very effective. Several years ago, the Archdiocese began a program called Ministry to Priests, run by a Trappist priest, Father [REDACTED], with headquarters at the Catholic University of America in Washington. His program began with a general retreat for all priests at Loras College several summers ago. Further psychological testing and consultation with Father [REDACTED]'s staff on a one-to-one confidential basis was part of the program. Also, the program provides for the establishment of support groups similar to Jesus Caritas, which also meet monthly. In addition, each priest has one priest he is to see several times a year to plan his program of spiritual growth and to assess his progress. Certainly, not all priests take advantage of these opportunities, but through our deanery and regional structure, they are encouraged regularly to do so.

6. Priests have always been able to request psychological help from me and my predecessors, and these requests have been followed up conscientiously. Further, if an unfortunate situation occurs, such as you detailed in your letter, rehabilitation in the form of therapy and spiritual guidance is mandated. During that time, the priest does not retain his active standing in the Archdiocese and may or may not return to such a status depending on what occurred and how effective the rehabilitation has been. Often a rehabilitated priest, if he returns to active service, does so in another diocese, with the full knowledge of that bishop of what transpired. Naturally these procedures are confidential and do not get media publicity. The return to active service also depends on the gravity of the situation, the scandal incurred and the possibility of reoccurrence.

If one asks if these procedures are foolproof, the answer must be no, since human nature and human judgment are fallible. If one asks if the Church is vigilant, I would answer yes, at least in my experience. May I say again that what is reported in newspapers, even our own Archdiocesan newspaper, does not necessarily convey a full picture of a priest's situation. This could be particularly true when listing members of a jubilee class.

I have taken the time to outline cautions we take because I felt you deserved a full answer. We do try our best. Bishops must be shepherds of all the people, including the priests. My heart goes out to victims of abuse, whether by priests, teachers, youth leaders and, yes, even parents and relatives. These incidents surely occurred in the past but probably received little publicity. Present publicity calls attention to a problem and also alerts parents and children in a way that was not the custom some years ago. Most of all, psychological knowledge of the dynamics of a personality that translates itself into overt

Mr. and Mrs. [REDACTED]

Page 4

October 27, 1988

behavior is also better known so that more effective testing, counseling and decision-making as to further ministry is now possible. Even so, the system is not foolproof, and constant vigilance and prayer are necessary.

Present publicity about these matters may also have a negative impact on the reputation of priests and others who deal with youth generally. This is unfortunate. So many give themselves unhesitatingly and faithfully in service to people, dedicating their lives (as in the case of priests and religious) to celibacy with the full understanding of its difficulties but also its value for undistracted service in God's Church. These deserve our support and confidence. The media sometimes tend to destroy this confidence, especially when downgrading the celibate life. You and I know that sexual attacks on children are not limited to those who are celibate.

I close by assuring you of my prayers and concern. May the Prince of Peace abide with you and your family. Please pray for me that I may always be a good shepherd to all of you.

With best wishes,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

[REDACTED]

(Most Rev.) [REDACTED], O.S.B.
Archbishop of Dubuque



archdiocese dubuque

Office of the Archbishop

1229 Mt. Loretta • P.O. Box 479 • Dubuque, Iowa 52004-0479 • Phone (319) 556-2580

October 27, 1988

Rev. John A. Schmitz

[REDACTED]
Waterloo, Iowa 50703

Dear Father John:

I know that our meeting of Friday, October 7, was a difficult one, but I thought you handled yourself well. The progress you have made in understanding yourself, your willingness to face your own weaknesses and the past will surely bring you God's sustaining graces. I know you are disappointed that you are not listed as being on active duty in the Archdiocese, but after our conversation, we both must agree that there is no alternative.

The past is the past and has to be faced realistically. It can also be a further occasion for accepting God's will in your life today and in the future and also an opportunity for spiritual growth and reparation. As we have discussed in our previous meetings, your present situation offers you an opportunity, working with Golden Valley, to be of help to people in similar circumstances. The fact that what you do is not a part of the Archdiocesan program as such and unofficial does not detract from its usefulness and merit.

I must reiterate here what I said in our conversation, namely, that it is best for you to keep a low public profile as far as functioning as a priest is concerned. Because of this, you cannot officiate at a public Mass in a parish or chapel and should not concelebrate at funerals or other public functions. You may continue to say a private Mass in your apartment. You also have faculties to hear the confession of brother priests, but this faculty does not extend to lay people. Because of all of this, you also cannot assist at parishes on weekends.

I am praying with you, Father John, for God's healing grace to accept all of this. There are hurting people from your past, and whatever you can offer on their behalf these days is both necessary and salutary for you and for them. I know you keep them all in your prayers. I encourage you to continue to do so as you seek more clearly God's will in your life. You must admit that you have been singularly blest and forgiven. May God be praised for His love and mercy.

With best wishes,

Faternally yours in Christ,

+ [REDACTED]
(Most Rev.) [REDACTED], O.S.B.
Archbishop of Dubuque

Schmitz-TC0226



archdiocese dubuque

Office of the Archbishop

1229 Mt. Loretta • P.O. Box 479 • Dubuque, Iowa 52004-0479 • Phone (319) 556-2580

April 5, 1989

Rev. John A. Schmitz

[Redacted]
Waterloo, Iowa 50703

Dear Father John:

I received your letter of March 13th but was not able to get around to dealing with it. First, I may have suggested you see the people in Minneapolis, but I don't want you to get the impression that you were sent there by me. Consequently, the Archdiocese really does not have any obligation to pay the bills. I am enclosing a check made out to you personally for [Redacted]. For the record, I must indicate that this is given to you as a matter of charity and not because you went for testing at the request of the Archdiocese.

I say this because I must once more make it quite clear for legal purposes that you are not on active duty in the Archdiocese of Dubuque and do not have an active assignment. Whatever work you are doing in conjunction with Golden Valley and support groups, you are doing on your own, as I have repeatedly indicated. You are not working on behalf of me or the Archdiocese of Dubuque, and I once more must tell you that you cannot infer this or say it to anyone who comes to you or with whom you work. To do so would give you a standing that we cannot accept legally for the many reasons we talked about in the discussions we have had in the past.

I know all this sounds very harsh, but I hope you do understand the reasons for my statements. You are not working on behalf of the Archdiocese, and consequently we do not accept responsibility for you or for your work. The stipend we give you every month is a matter of charity and is not in recompense for any services rendered.

On a personal note, I do want to tell you that the [Redacted] [Redacted] show a great advance over the first time you took the tests. This is certainly in your favor and shows your efforts to rehabilitate yourself. I thank God for this, as I know you do.

May the graces of the Risen Christ be with you and strengthen you in your personal and spiritual life.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Schmitz-TC0227

(Most Rev.) [Redacted], O.S.B.
Archbishop of Dubuque



Most Rev. [REDACTED] V.G.
Bishop for the Waterloo Region

archdiocese dubuque

P.O. Box 2594 - 320 Mulberry St. - Waterloo, Iowa 50704-2594 - Phone (319) 294-6242

April 20, 1990

Most Rev. [REDACTED], O.S.B., Ph.D.
Archbishop of Dubuque
P.O. Box 479
Dubuque, IA 52004-0479

RE: [REDACTED]

Dear Archbishop [REDACTED],

Enclosed is the original letter I received yesterday from [REDACTED] in response to my letter regarding John Schmitz and a [REDACTED].

I have sent copies of this letter to Monsignor [REDACTED], so he could get in contact with the Archdiocesan lawyer. The letter states, an answer would be appreciated by April 30, 1990.

I await your response.

Fraternally in Christ,

[REDACTED]

(Most Rev.) [REDACTED]
Bishop for the Waterloo Region



Archdiocese of Dubuque

Most Rev. [REDACTED] V.G.
Bishop for the Waterloo Region

P.O. Box 2594 • 520 Mulberry St. • Waterloo, Iowa 50704-2594 • Phone (319) 234-6242

August 31, 1990

Archbishop [REDACTED] O.S.B.
Archbishop of Dubuque
P. O. Box 479
Dubuque, Ia 52004-0479

Re: Fr. John Schmitz
Waterloo, Iowa

Dear Archbishop [REDACTED]

Enclosed is a copy of papers served today, Friday, August 31, 1990 to Fr. John Schmitz.

He is on retreat at the Monastery the week of Sept. 2nd. He is to contact a lawyer when he gets back.

Fraternally in Christ,

[REDACTED]
(Most Rev.) [REDACTED]
Bishop for the Waterloo Region

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE STATE OF IOWA
IN AND FOR BLACK HAWK COUNTY

[REDACTED]
Plaintiff,
vs.
JOHN SCHMITZ
Defendant.

LAW NO. 71647

ORIGINAL NOTICE

RECEIVED
AUG 30 AM 11 17
CLERK OF DISTRICT COURT
BLACK HAWK COUNTY

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANT:

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that there is now on file in the office of the clerk of the above court, a Petition in the above-entitled action, a copy of which Petition is attached hereto. The Petitioner's attorney is Paul T. Shinkle, whose address is 704 Main Street, P.O. Box 523, Cedar Falls, Iowa 50613.

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that unless within 20 days after service of this original notice upon you, you serve, and within a reasonable time thereafter file, a motion or answer, in the Iowa District Court for Black Hawk County, at the county courthouse in Waterloo, Iowa, judgment by default will be rendered against you for the relief demanded in the Petition.

[REDACTED]
Clerk of the Above Court
Black Hawk County Courthouse
Waterloo, Iowa 50703

By [REDACTED]
Deputy Clerk

NOTE: The attorney who is expected to represent the Defendant should be promptly advised by Defendant of the service of this notice.

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE STATE OF IOWA

IN AND FOR BLACK HAWK COUNTY

[REDACTED]

Plaintiff,

vs.

JOHN SCHMITZ

Defendant.

LAW NO.

PETITION AT LAW

RECEIVED
90 AUG 30 PM 11 17
SHERIFF

COMES NOW the Plaintiff and for cause of action against the

Defendant states as follow:

1. That the Plaintiff is now and for all times relevant hereto a resident of Black Hawk County Iowa.
2. That the Defendant is now and for all times relevant hereto a resident of Black Hawk County, Iowa.
3. That the Defendant is a member of the clergy, and has held himself out as such to the public, and was holding himself out as such in 1988.
4. That the Defendant held himself out as an individual capable of performing family and individual counseling.
5. That in 1988 and 1989 he attempted to counsel the Plaintiff and the then Plaintiff's spouse.
6. That rather than proceeding to counsel the Defendant used the information given to him by the Plaintiff to become an interloper in the marriage relationship.
7. That the Defendant used the information given by the Plaintiff to the Defendant to ridicule the Plaintiff's to the

Plaintiff's spouse, and to release information to others without the consent of the Plaintiff.

8. That due to the conduct of the Defendant the Plaintiff's marriage was dissolved.

9. That due to the conduct of the Defendant the Plaintiff was required to suffer grave emotional and psychological stress, loss of income, loss of marital assets, and loss of enjoyment of life.

10. That the Defendant's conduct was in violation of his position as a counselor and was a direct cause of the Plaintiff's damages.

WHEREFORE the Plaintiff prays that judgment be entered against the Defendant in a fair and reasonable amount and for the cost of this action.



PAUL T. SHINKLE
704 Main Street
P.O. Box 523
Cedar Falls, Iowa 50613-0523
Phone: (319) 277-5500



archdiocese dubuque

Most Rev. [REDACTED] V.G.
Bishop for the Waterloo Region

P.O. Box 2594 • 320 Mulberry St. • Waterloo, Iowa 50704-2594 • Phone (319) 294-6242

October 1, 1990

Most Rev. [REDACTED], O.S.B.
Archbishop of Dubuque
P. O. Box 479
Dubuque, Ia 52004-0479

re: Fr. John Schmitz

Dear Archbishop [REDACTED]

Enclosed are items received from Father Schmitz, part of the papers in preparation for the law case, [REDACTED] v. Schmitz.

1. copy of Sept. 27, 1990 letter from his lawyer, [REDACTED], reference to interview with [REDACTED] wife of [REDACTED] who is suing.
2. copy Sept 25, 1990 statement, total [REDACTED] [none of this amount has been paid]
3. copy [REDACTED] letter to [REDACTED], also patient's waiver ([REDACTED]) for information.
4. ATTORNEY FEE CONTRACT

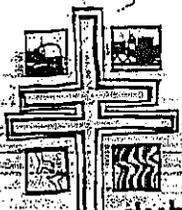
As I read this, the lawyer wants the Archdiocese to guarantee payment for his fees.

Item #4: What is the procedure in this case? I await your reply, or is this a means by which the Archdiocesan Lawyer can speak with [REDACTED], Fr. Schmitz's lawyer.

Waiting your reply, I remain

Fraternally in Christ,

[REDACTED]
(Most Rev.) [REDACTED]
Bishop for the Waterloo Region



archdiocese dubuque

Most Rev. [REDACTED] V.G.
Bishop for the Waterloo Region

P.O. Box 2594 -- 320 Mulberry St. -- Waterloo, Iowa 50704-2594 -- Phone (319) 234-6242

October 26, 1990

Most Reverend [REDACTED], O.S.B., Ph.D.
Archbishop of Dubuque
Archdiocesan Center
P.O. Box 479
Dubuque, IA 52004-0479

RE: Father John Schmitz

Dear Archbishop [REDACTED],

I have enclosed a copy of the October statement to Father John Schmitz for services rendered by attorney, [REDACTED], a member of Lindeman & Yagla Law Firm in Waterloo, Iowa.

With this letter, Father Schmitz would like to make application for a loan to cover the [REDACTED].

It is my understanding, the check will be made out to Father John Schmitz, mailed to my office and I will deliver the letter to him.

If there are any questions or changes in procedure, please let me know.

Fraternally in Christ,

[REDACTED]

(Most Rev.) [REDACTED]
Bishop for the Waterloo Region



archdiocese dubuque

Most Rev. [REDACTED] V.G.
Bishop for the Waterloo Region

P.O. Box 2594 • 320 Mulberry St. • Waterloo, Iowa 50704-2594 • Phone (319) 294-6242

November 3, 1990

Most Reverend [REDACTED], O.S.B.
Archbishop of Dubuque
P. O. Box 479
Dubuque, Ia 52004-0479

Re: Fr. John Schmitz

Dear Archbishop [REDACTED],

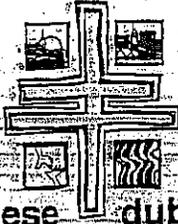
In response to reimbursement for Father John Schmitz first statement of [REDACTED], I would suggest to let it stand as he was able to pay the bill. He will need help, especially if the case goes into court.

Thanking you for consideration and help, I remain

Fraternally in Christ,

[REDACTED]
(Most Rev.) [REDACTED]
Bishop for the Waterloo Region

Schmitz-TC0241



HL

Most Rev. [REDACTED] V.G.
Bishop for the Waterloo Region

archdiocese dubuque

P.O. Box 2594 • 320 Mulberry St. • Waterloo, Iowa 50704-2594 • Phone (319) 234-6242

November 20, 1990

Most Reverend [REDACTED], O.S.B.
Archbishop of Dubuque
P.O. Box 479
Dubuque, IA 52004-0479

RE: Rev. John Schmitz

Dear Archbishop [REDACTED],

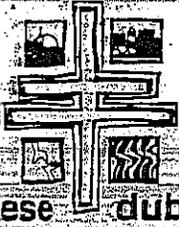
I have enclosed a copy of the letter I mailed to you on October 26, 1990 (#3, 3a & 3b) with the enclosed October 22, 1990 statement from Father's lawyer.

This was the letter which gives the need of [REDACTED] for work completed in October, 1990 and is the amount needed for Father Schmitz to meet the month's expenses. Your letter of November 3, 1990 does not make reference to October 26, 1990; thus the need for this correspondence. I have enclosed all copies of the correspondence.

Thanking you for your help.

Eternally in Christ,

[REDACTED]
(Most Rev.) [REDACTED]
Bishop for the Waterloo Region



archdiocese dubuque

Most Rev. [REDACTED] V.G.
Bishop for the Waterloo Region

P.O. Box 2594 • 320 Mulberry St. • Waterloo, Iowa 50704-2594 • Phone (319) 234-6242

#1
COPY
Enclosure
a, b, c, d,
e, f, g, h

October 1, 1990

Most Rev. [REDACTED], O.S.B.
Archbishop of Dubuque
P. O. Box 479
Dubuque, Ia 52004-0479

re: Fr. John Schmitz

Dear Archbishop [REDACTED],

Enclosed are items received from Father Schmitz, part of the papers in preparation for the law case, [REDACTED] v. Schmitz.

1. copy of Sept 27, 1990 letter from his lawyer, [REDACTED], reference to interview with [REDACTED] wife of [REDACTED] who is suing.
2. copy Sept 25, 1990 statement, total [REDACTED] [none of this amount has been paid]
3. copy [REDACTED] letter to [REDACTED], also patient's waiver ([REDACTED]) for information.

4. ATTORNEY FEE CONTRACT

As I read this, the lawyer wants the Archdiocese to guarantee payment for his fees.

Item #4: What is the procedure in this case? I await your reply, or is this a means by which the Archdiocesan Lawyer can speak with [REDACTED] Fr. Schmitz's lawyer.

Waiting your reply, I remain

Fraternally in Christ,

(Most Rev.) [REDACTED]
Bishop for the Waterloo Region



Your original letter

#2

archdiocese dubuque

Most Rev. [REDACTED] V.G.
Bishop for the Waterloo Region

PO Box 2594 -- 320 Mulberry St. -- Waterloo, Iowa 50704-2594 -- Phone (319) 234-6242

October 18, 1990

Most Rev. [REDACTED] O.S.B.
Archbishop of Dubuque
P.O. Box 479
Dubuque, Ia 52004-0479

Re: Fr John Schmitz

Dear Archbishop [REDACTED]

Father John Schmitz was discussing the expenses for the case of concern.

He has paid the first statement of [REDACTED].

Estimate of expenses according to the degree of trial:

1. Least: [REDACTED] if the party wants to drop the case before going to the initial court hearing.
2. [REDACTED] if the case goes to initial court hearing and then dropped.
3. [REDACTED] if the case goes full trial.

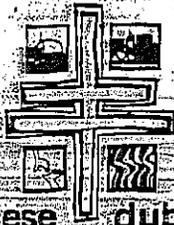
The lawyer's statement goes out the 20th of the month, at which time application for the necessary loan would be made.

Thank you for you help and leadership for the people of the Archdiocese of Dubuque.

Fraternally in Christ,

[REDACTED]

(Most Rev.) [REDACTED]
Bishop for the Waterloo Region



Most Rev. [REDACTED] V.G. 2-5
Bishop for the Waterloo Region

archdiocese dubuque

P.O. Box 2594 • 320 Mulberry St. • Waterloo, Iowa 50704-2594 • Phone (319) 234-6242

COPIY

October 26, 1990

Most Reverend [REDACTED], O.S.B., Ph.D.
Archbishop of Dubuque
Archdiocesan Center
P.O. Box 479
Dubuque, IA 52004-0479

RE: Father John Schmitz

Dear Archbishop [REDACTED]:

I have enclosed a copy of the October statement to Father John Schmitz for services rendered by attorney, [REDACTED], a member of Lindeman & Yagla Law Firm in Waterloo, Iowa.

With this letter, Father Schmitz would like to make application for a loan to cover the [REDACTED].

It is my understanding, the check will be made out to Father John Schmitz, mailed to my office and I will deliver the letter to him.

If there are any questions or changes in procedure, please let me know.

Fraternally in Christ,

(Most Rev.) [REDACTED]
Bishop for the Waterloo Region

*Carbon
Your copy*

#4

November 2, 1990

Most Reverend [REDACTED]
Bishop for the Waterloo Region
P.O. Box 2594
Waterloo, Iowa 50704-2594

Dear Bishop [REDACTED]:

Thank you for your letter of October 18 and the rundown on the legal expenses of Father John Schmitz. I wasn't sure whether or not you felt that we should reimburse him for the first statement of [REDACTED]. If you think he needs it, I'll have a check made out and send it on to you to hand him. It occurred to me, however, that if he was able to pay it, perhaps we should let it stand so he knows that we are not always standing in the wings ready to cover his expenses. We certainly will help him from this point on.

Let me know what I should do.

Fraternally in Christ,

(Most Rev.) [REDACTED] O.S.B.
Archbishop of Dubuque

Schmitz-TC0255



archdiocese dubuque

Most Rev. [REDACTED] V.G.
Bishop for the Waterloo Region

P.O. Box 2594 • 320 Mulberry St. • Waterloo, Iowa 50704-2594 • Phone (319) 234-6242

#5
COPY

November 3, 1990

Most Reverend [REDACTED] O.S.B.
Archbishop of Dubuque
P. O. Box 479
Dubuque, Ia 52004 0479

Re: Fr. John Schmitz

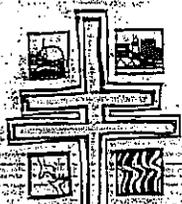
Dear Archbishop [REDACTED]

In response to reimbursement for Father John Schmitz first statement of [REDACTED], I would suggest to let it stand as he was able to pay the bill. He will need help, especially if the case goes into court.

Thanking you for consideration and help, I remain

Fraternally in Christ,

[REDACTED]
(Most Rev.) [REDACTED]
Bishop for the Waterloo Region



archdiocese dubuque

Most Rev. [REDACTED], V.G.
Bishop for the Waterloo Region

P.O. Box 2594 - 320 Mulberry St. - Waterloo, Iowa 50704-2594 - Phone (319) 234-6242

November 27, 1990

Most Reverend [REDACTED], O.S.B.
Archbishop of Dubuque
P. O. Box 479
Dubuque, Ia 52004 0479

Re: Rev. John Schmitz

Dear Archbishop [REDACTED],

Enclosed is the statement of services dated November 20, 1990 for Fr. John Schmitz by the law firm of Lindeman & Yagla.

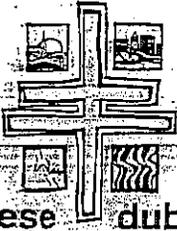
Previous unpaid balance [REDACTED]
New expenses [REDACTED]
Balance due [REDACTED]

I will await your reponse for Father Schmitz.

Many thanks for your help.

Fraternally in Christ

[REDACTED]
(Most Rev.) [REDACTED]
Bishop for the Waterloo Region



archdiocese dubuque

Office of the Archbishop

1229 Mt. Loretta • P.O. Box 479 • Dubuque, Iowa 52004-0479 • Phone (319) 556-2580

November 29, 1990

Most Reverend [REDACTED]
Bishop for the Waterloo Region
P.O. Box 2594
Waterloo, Iowa 50704-2594

Dear Bishop [REDACTED]:

Thank you for all the material on Father John Schmitz and his legal expenses. When I began clearing my desk off at home during Thanksgiving, I did find the original correspondence. I also have your letter of November 27th.

Enclosed is a check made out to John Schmitz in the amount of [REDACTED] to cover his legal fees to date. Would you please give him the check, with the understanding that it is a loan from the Archdiocese of Dubuque. Please also state again to him that we are doing this as a matter of charity, since he is not functioning as a priest of the Archdiocese.

With best wishes,

Fraternally in Christ,

(Most Rev.) [REDACTED] O.S.B.
Archbishop of Dubuque

Schmitz-TC0260

THE ARCHDIOCESE
OF DUBUQUE

DETACH AND RETAIN THIS STATEMENT
THE ATTACHED CHECK IS IN PAYMENT OF ITEMS DESCRIBED BELOW.
IF NOT CORRECT PLEASE NOTIFY US PROMPTLY. NO RECEIPT DESIRED.

NO 54339

DELUXE FORM DVC-2 V-3

DATE	INVOICE NO.	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT	DEDUCTIONS		NET AMOUNT
				PARTICULARS	AMOUNT	
11-30-90		To F. J. Security as a loan 				

V-3



archdiocese dubuque

Most Rev. [REDACTED] V.G.
Bishop for the Waterloo Region

P.O. Box 2594 - 320 Mulberry St. - Waterloo, Iowa 50704-2594 - Phone (319) 234-6242

January 14, 1991

Most Reverend [REDACTED], O.S.B.
Archbishop of Dubuque
P. O. Box 479
Dubuque, Ia 52004 0479

Re: Rev. John Schmitz

Dear Archbishop [REDACTED]

Enclosed is the statement of services, dated December 31, 1990 for Fr. John Schmitz by the law firm of Lindeman & Yagla.

Previous balance [REDACTED]
Paid on account [REDACTED]

Services in 1990 December [REDACTED]
Balance due [REDACTED]

I will await your reponse for Father Schmitz.

Many thanks for your help.

Fraternally in Christ,

[REDACTED]

(Most Rev.) [REDACTED]
Bishop for the Waterloo Region

*Check to be made out
to John Schmitz
Main to check to
Bosly [REDACTED]*



archdiocese dubuque

Most Rev. [REDACTED] V.G.
Bishop for the Waterloo Region

P.O. Box 2594 • 320 Mulberry St. • Waterloo, Iowa 50704-2594 • Phone (319) 234-6242

March 15, 1991

Most Reverend [REDACTED], O.S.B.
Archbishop of Dubuque
Archdiocesan Center
P.O. Box 479
Dubuque, IA 52004-0479

RE: Rev. John A. Schmitz

Dear Archbishop [REDACTED],

As mentioned in my previous letter, I have enclosed copies of the communication between [REDACTED], attorney and Father John A. Schmitz. The reasoning for requesting dismissal of the case is stated.

Thanking you for your help and leadership, I remain

Fraternally in Christ,

[REDACTED]
(Most Rev.) [REDACTED]
Bishop for the Waterloo Region

IN THE IOWA DISTRICT COURT

IN AND FOR BLACK HAWK COUNTY

91 JAN 31 PM 3 51

[Redacted]

Plaintiff, [Redacted] AZA Law No. 71647

CLEAR

MOTION FOR SUMMARY JUDGMENT

vs.

JOHN SCHMITZ,

Defendant.

The Defendant states:

1. This cause of action was initiated by a Petition filed August 30, 1990.
2. Since the filing of the Petition, Interrogatories have been propounded to Plaintiff to determine the factual underpinnings of the case. Additionally, Plaintiff has been deposed.
3. On the basis of discovery conducted it has been determined that some of the allegations are not supported by facts, and other allegations, even if true, are not actionable.
4. The Defendant is entitled to a judgment in his favor as a matter of law.

WHEREFORE Defendant moves the Court to set this motion for a hearing, and upon hearing, to enter judgment in his favor.

Copy to:

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

PROOF OF SERVICE

The undersigned certifies that the foregoing instrument was served upon all parties to the above cause by depositing a copy thereof in the U.S. Mail, postage prepaid, in envelopes addressed to each of the attorneys of record herein at their respective addresses as disclosed on the pleadings, or by leaving it at their offices as prescribed in Rule 82(b) on [Redacted] 31, 1991.

For
LINDEMAN & YAGLA
500 First National Building
P.O. Box 960
Waterloo, Iowa 50704-0960
(319) 234-4631
ATTORNEYS FOR DEFENDANT

IN THE IOWA DISTRICT COURT

IN AND FOR BLACK HAWK COUNTY

91 JAN 31 PM 3 51

[REDACTED]

Plaintiff, [REDACTED]

Law No. 71647

vs.

CLERK

MEMORANDUM OF AUTHORITY
IN SUPPORT OF MOTION
FOR SUMMARY JUDGMENT

JOHN SCHMITZ,

Defendant.

The legal theory behind Plaintiff's claim is far from clear.

Clergy malpractice is not a theory of recovery that has ever been recognized in Iowa. Other jurisdictions, when faced with such claims, have rejected them. See Strock v. Pressnell, 38 Ohio St. 3d 207, 527 N.E.2d 1235, 75 ALR 4th 729 (1988); Nally v. Grace Community Church, 47 Cal. 3d 278, 253 Cal. Rptr. 97, 763 P.2d 948, cert den (U.S.) 104 L. Ed. 2d 159, 109 S. Ct. 1644 (1988); Destefano v. Grabrian, 763 P.2d 275 (Colo., 1988); Hester v. Barnett, 723 S.W.2d 544 (Mo. App., 1987); and Annotation: Cause Of Action For Clergy Malpractice 75 ALR 4th 750 (1990).

In the Strock case a husband and wife had gone to a Lutheran minister for marital counseling. The husband subsequently brought an action against the minister and his church, alleging the minister had had sexual relations with the wife, from whom the husband was subsequently divorced. Theories advanced by the husband included clergy malpractice, breach of fiduciary duty, fraud, misrepresentation, nondisclosure, and intentional infliction of emotional distress. The court addressed constitutional concerns, and specifically addressed the issue of whether or not the minister should be exempt from the lawsuit on

the basis of the free exercise clause of the First Amendment to the United States Constitution. In that case it was decided that the sexual conduct of the minister was not protected under the free exercise clause because it was a deviation from the normal spiritual counseling practices of ministers in the Lutheran church. The court went on to address the claim under various other theories, and upheld the dismissal in the favor of the minister and the church. The underlying rationale for the decision was the fact that Ohio had abolished "amatory" actions by statute. The court found that that, in essence, was what the Plaintiff was trying to advance, regardless of how the plaintiff labeled the theory. Since the legislature had done away with those causes of action, the dismissal of the trial court was upheld.

The constitutional concern was also raised in Destefano v. Garbrian, 763 P.2d 275 (Colo., 1988). In that case the plaintiff claimed that his wife went to a Roman Catholic priest for counseling, and that the priest engaged in consensual sexual relations with the wife. The claim was dismissed by the trial court, and that dismissal was affirmed on appeal.

Here there are no allegations of sexual relations. To the extent that the allegations are that Defendant communicated information from Mr. [REDACTED] to Mrs. [REDACTED], such conduct should be protected by the Constitution, since it would clearly fall under the normal spiritual counseling practices of Roman Catholic priests, who would be trying to facilitate

communication between estranged spouses.

To the extent that Plaintiff contends that Defendant became an "interloper" in the marriage, Defendant is entitled to summary judgment under the authority of Roalson v. Chaney, 334 N.W.2d 754 (Iowa 1983) and Fundermann v. Mickelson, 304 N.W.2d 790 (Iowa 1981). In Fundermann, the Iowa Supreme Court abolished the cause of action for alienation of affections. In Roalson, a husband brought an action against an individual claiming that that individual had proposed to his wife during plaintiff's marriage. Plaintiff alleged interference with conciliation and intentional infliction of emotional distress. Summary judgment in favor of the defendant "interloper" was affirmed. As to the theory that defendant had interfered with marital conciliation, the court said:

The arguments for and against recognizing an independent tort action for damages for interference with conciliation are similar to the arguments for and against recognizing a tort action for alienation of affections. The gist of Richard's theory is that a tort action for damages should be available to deter or punish a third party who interferes with marital conciliation by establishing a relationship with one of the spouses. In this context the proposed action is merely a specific application of the broader theory of action for alienation of affections. The relational interest and actionable conduct are identical.

The trial court was therefore correct in holding that Richard's claim on this ground is barred by this court's abrogation of the cause of action for alienation of affections in Fundermann v. Mickelson, 304 N.W.2d 790 (Iowa 1981).

334 N.W.2d at 756.

As to the intentional infliction of emotional distress theory, as advanced by Roalson, the court noted that one of the

elements of the tort was outrageous conduct by the defendant.

That standard is discussed in detail in the Roason decision at 334 N.W.2d 756. The court found that defendant's conduct in proposing to the wife while she was still married to plaintiff was not, as a matter of law, outrageous enough to support a claim for severe infliction of emotional distress.

The conduct by Father John Schmitz, in the case at bar, is tame by comparison. Regardless of how the theory is labeled by the Plaintiff, it is, in essence, a claim for alienation of affections, and should be dismissed.

Strong public policy arguments support the dismissal of this case. Plaintiff has admitted that he and his former wife are both at fault for the demise of their marriage. [REDACTED]

Deposition p. 31 line 20 through p. 33 line 14. Given that admission, Defendant, theoretically, could bring a counterclaim against [REDACTED], claiming he was at fault for the demise of his marriage, and a third party claim against [REDACTED] [REDACTED], claiming that she was at fault for demise of the marriage. This would particularly seem appropriate in light of the fact that [REDACTED] has alleged the break up of his marriage as an item of damage and as a direct consequence of Defendant's action. One can imagine the Defendant being put in a position where he has to argue the percentage of fault that should be assessed to [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] for the breakdown of their marriage. The resulting judgments could, in effect, result in a reshaping of the dissolution decree. Issues of fault in the

[REDACTED] marriage would be litigated despite the fact that Iowa has long since abandoned the fault concept of divorce. See In Re Williams' Marriage, 199 N.W.2d 339 (Iowa 1972) and In Re Tjaden's Marriage, 199 N.W.2d 475 (Iowa 1972). It would be a giant step backward in Iowa jurisprudence to have fault for the breakdown of a marriage raised and litigated in the courtroom.

The essence of why Plaintiff's claim must fail is artfully stated in Fundermann v. Mickelson, 304 N.W.2d 790 (Iowa 1981) at p. 794:

In the last analysis we think the action should be abolished because spousal love is not property which is subject to theft. We do not abolish the action because defendants in such suits, need or deserve our protection. We certainly do not do so because of any changing views on promiscuous sexual conduct. It is merely and simply because the plaintiffs in such suits do not deserve to recover for the loss of or injury to "property" which they do not, and cannot, own.

Even if [REDACTED] could prove that Father John Schmitz had engaged in conduct that drove a wedge between [REDACTED] and [REDACTED], [REDACTED] would not be able to recover because the affection of his wife was not a protected property right.

Respectfully submitted,

[REDACTED]
For
LINDEMAN & YAGLA
500 First National Building
P.O. Box 960
Waterloo, Iowa 50704-0960
(319) 234-4631
ATTORNEYS FOR DEFENDANT

Copy to:


P.O. Box 523
Cedar Falls, IA 50613

PROOF OF SERVICE

The undersigned certifies that the foregoing instrument was served upon all parties to the above cause by depositing a copy thereof in the U.S. Mail, postage prepaid, in envelopes addressed to each of the attorneys of record herein at their respective addresses as disclosed on the pleadings, or by leaving it at their offices as prescribed in Rule 82(b) on *January 31*, 1991.



MOST REV. WM. E. FRANKLIN, D.D.

320 MULBERRY STREET
WATERLOO, IOWA 50703

BISHOP FOR THE WATERLOO REGION

TELEPHONE (319) 234-6242

APRIL 10, 1991

DEAR ARCHBISHOP [REDACTED]

ENCLOSED IS COMMUNICATION TO FR. JOHN SCHMITZ FROM

HIS LAWYER.

IT WOULD SEEM THE CASE IS OUT OF COURT, UNLESS ARNOLD
CAN FIND SOME REASON IN THE NEXT THIRTY DAYS TO BRING
IT BACK TO THE JUDGE.

#2.

FR. JOHN SCHMITZ IS GOING TO ROCHESTER FRIDAY, 12TH, FOR THE

[REDACTED]

Fraternally in Christ,

[REDACTED]

(Most Rev.) [REDACTED]

Bishop for the Waterloo Region

Schmitz-TC0274

MOST REV. [REDACTED], D.D.

320 MULBERRY STREET
WATERLOO, IOWA 50703

BISHOP FOR THE WATERLOO REGION

TELEPHONE (319) 234-6242

May 7, 1991

Most Reverend [REDACTED] O.S.B.
Archbishop of Dubuque
P. O. Box 479
Dubuque, Ia 52004-0479

Re: update John Schmitz

Dear Archbishop [REDACTED]:

Enclosed are copies of receipts from Fr. John Schmitz
in reference to Lindeman & Yagla Law firm. These are
receipts of bills paid 10-2-90, \$ [REDACTED] and 3-20-91
\$ [REDACTED]. These copies are for information only.

I would expect the final communication from his lawyer in the
next couple weeks.

Fraternally, in Christ,

[REDACTED]
(Most Rev.) [REDACTED]
Bishop for the Waterloo Region

Schmitz-TC0275

December 12, 1993

Archbishop [REDACTED]
1229 Mt. Loretta
Dubuque, Iowa 52003

Dear Archbishop [REDACTED]

I'm sending you a copy of the Winona Diocese policy on sexual misconduct. It was sent to me by a friend in Mankato who is aware of my abuse of some thirty-five years ago.

I think that there are several important areas not covered in the Dubuque policy provided to [REDACTED] and I several years ago. I'm also sending a copy to Bishop [REDACTED] and to [REDACTED] (I try to keep him informed on [REDACTED] "journey of action.") I hope that you find this helpful when reviewing your current policies.

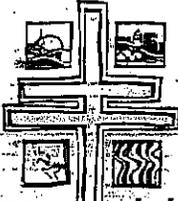
My hope for my church continues to be that they would be more committed to the healing of victims than to the immediate forgiveness of abusers and address this crime openly. Another hope is that they begin research into why so many pedophiles have been attracted to the priesthood as opposed to other professions involved with children. As a Christian I believe in forgiveness for pedophiles when they admit to and provide for restitution. I don't believe keeping them as role models in the Church is an act of forgiveness though. Nor is keeping them in the priesthood in the best interest for their need to control or change their behavior.

Please keep [REDACTED] and myself in your prayers as we continue our call to action when and where there is abuse.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

PERSONAL



archdiocese dubuque

Office of the Archbishop

1229 Mt. Loretta • P.O. Box 479 • Dubuque, Iowa 52004-0479 • Phone (319) 556-2580

December 27, 1993

Mrs. [REDACTED]

Dear Mrs. [REDACTED]:

Thank you for your letter of December 12th. I am sorry I could not respond sooner, but the Christmas holidays played havoc with my schedule.

Thank you for sending me a copy of the Winona diocesan policy on sexual misconduct. As you may have heard, this Archdiocese has just officially published our guidelines. I am enclosing a copy for you.

Indeed, much has developed since our initial contact and my letter to you. All of us have learned a great deal and have been able to solidify our procedures. I am sure that procedures by themselves will never solve problems, but at least all of us now have a greater awareness and are alert for situations.

May you and your family have a blessed and peaceful new year.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

[REDACTED]
(Most Rev.) [REDACTED] O.S.B.
Archbishop of Dubuque

Schmitz-TC0277

October 1, 1996

Archbishop [REDACTED]
Archdiocese of Dubuque Center
1229 Mt. Loretta Ave.
Dubuque, IA 52003

Dear Archbishop [REDACTED]:

I'm writing to you for several reasons. One is regarding the current issue of sexual abuse at St. Columbkilles. Another reason is my own personal connection to that issue and the third is to ask to be a part of that healing process for all of us.

I'd like to commend you on your openness in dealing with the tragedy at St. Columbkilles. That is such a big step for other victims and their families to see that you have taken a stand for justice. You have not forsaken them.

I too was abused by a priest, raped by John Schmitz, 38 years ago when I was 12 years old. I've never asked anything of my church for compensation. But what I continue to ask is to not have my story forgotten, for the sake of other victims that history not repeat itself.

The pain on my journey of healing now seems to be not feeling included in the church and not having other victims included in an open dialogue. There seems to be silence from the pulpit and little public awareness of how the clergy is dealing with these issues.

I very much would like the opportunity to meet with you and hear your message. Some years ago a friend of mine in Minneapolis sent me a letter telling me how a Bishop [REDACTED] invited former victims of clergy abuse and asked their forgiveness for the tragedies in his church. I was so pleased and hopeful when I heard that that same Bishop [REDACTED] was coming to Dubuque. My hope for other victims could now be realized. But I've waited so long to hear that message of hope for myself. So, I am asking that my husband, [REDACTED], and myself be able to visit with you and hear your message so that we might possibly work towards a new vision.

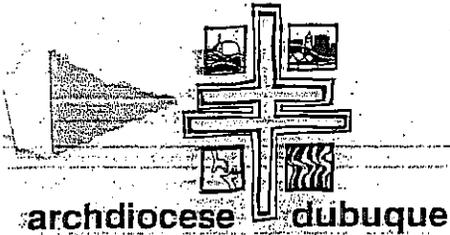
My thoughts and prayers are with you as your work unfolds.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Schmitz-TC0278

PERSONAL



Office of the Archbishop

1229 Mt. Loretta • P.O. Box 479 • Dubuque, Iowa 52004-0479 • Phone (319) 556-2580

October 7, 1996

[REDACTED]
Dubuque, Iowa 52001

Dear [REDACTED]

Your letter of October 1, 1996, shared an introduction of yourself and especially discussed the experience and issue of sexual abuse by clergy. You wrote about the current situation at St. Columbkille's and the way it is being handled. At the same time you commented on the silence from the pulpit and the poor public awareness of how the clergy is dealing with these issues.

I am very grieved to learn of the abuse which you personally experienced. To my mind, there is no excuse for behavior of this kind. I am sorry, and especially so because of your having suffered because of the actions of a priest.

You asked if you and your husband [REDACTED] could visit with me. Of course you may. Dealing with sexual abuse is not easy for anyone, but I am most willing to listen and to share. Usually, Monsignor [REDACTED] is with me, since by myself I often miss something in the intensity of the moment. If you or [REDACTED] could give us a call, we would be happy to find a time when all of us can visit.

Again, be assured of my prayers. May Christ continue to be your strength.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]
Most Rev. [REDACTED] O.S.B.
Archbishop of Dubuque

[REDACTED]
Shetland Court
Painter

Schmitz-TC0279